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THE BLIND AMERICAN

INKPRINT EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD FOR THE BLIND
A CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

2652 SHASTA ROAD BERKELEY 8, CALIF.

JANUARY ... 1964

THE BLIND AMERICAN

Published monthly in Braille and inkprint and distributed free to the blind by the American Brotherhood for the Blind, Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, President. National headquarters and editorial offices at 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

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CALIFORNIA WELFARE: LOOKING BACKWARD

By James McGinnis

(Editor's Note: Mr. McGinnis is president of the California Council of the Blind. His article is reprinted by permission from the February, 1964 issue of THE COUNCIL BULLETIN.)

Last year the imposing structure of public welfare administration in California was abruptly and deliberately torn down--in order to be as hastily rebuilt along radically different lines.

All of the powers which had been vested in the State Social Welfare Board--those of making policies and regulations, hearing appeals of aggrieved clients, and maintaining merit system standards--were stripped away and handed over to the Director of the Department of Social Welfare. By this sweeping action the Board was converted overnight into a completely powerless unit within the Department, its functions reduced to those of advising and studying whatever matters might be brought before it by the Welfare Director.

The demolition of the State Welfare Board took place officially on September 20, 1963. Enough time has now gone by to warrant provisional answers to the obvious questions. What new procedures have been devised by Welfare Director J. F. Wedemeyer to take the place of the old ones? Has he safeguarded the public right to know--the right of the people to be informed about public policies and regulations, as well as their right to speak and be heard in the making of those regulations? Has the Director instituted any shields or protections against the arbitrary exercise of administrative power under the sweeping authority now granted his department?

Now that the old Board is gone, as Californians have known it--and with it all of its protections for clients and public alike--what has been done to develop an adequate review process? Following his appearance before a hearing officer, does the welfare client's case simply disappear forever from public view down the long corridors of departmental bureaucracy?

To what extent, finally, has the Social Welfare Board geared itself to perform the new function it is now assigned?

The answers to many of these questions may be found in certain

events of recent months--in particular the inaugural meeting of the new Social Welfare Board in November, and the first welfare planning conference held in October by the Welfare Department.

These two events are curiously related--for certain of the powers formerly exercised by the Board are ostensibly to be transferred to the quarterly planning conference. The old Board, let it be remembered, was responsible and responsive to popular attitudes, needs and views; in its regular meetings up and down the state it provided an open forum to which all interested groups and persons might come not as observers merely but as participants. The old Board not only did the job of hearing and conferring, it also carried on the task of planning and deciding--in plain terms, it acted, in the full view of a participating public.

Now the old Board, emasculated and immobilized, is out of the picture. Much official rhetoric has been devoted since to celebrating the equivalent virtues of the planning conference--with special emphasis on the broad spectrum of community groups and interests who will participate, and hence also upon the wide-ranging discussion of welfare issues which supposedly will characterize these meetings.

Unfortunately the reality is far from matching the rhetoric. On the basis of the first quarterly planning conference--and indeed on the basis of the department's own statement in an official circular letter--that glowing picture of a statewide "town meeting" is a myth and a delusion. The planning is to be done not during the "planning" conference but long before it--and not at the grass roots but at the apex of the bureaucratic pyramid. The participants in the planning conference are a carefully pruned and chosen group--chiefly a gathering of reliable administrators and technicians. Only those who receive invitations may come and participate. Not only are the invited public and voluntary associations limited to a winnowed few; even the Department's own subordinate echelons in the counties and elsewhere are to be restricted in participation and invitation. Two or three officials of statewide county associations will be regulars; beyond that, says the Department, "Depending on the subject matter, participation will be invited from other state and local agencies, organizations and associations and individuals."

The plain facts of the first quarterly planning conference are that it was controlled from start to finish by the reigning state officials; that where group discussions strayed off course into areas of controversy they were quickly steered back into line; that only token

representation was made of the numerous and diverse community groups most concerned in welfare, while against them was ranged a solid phalanx of chorusing administrators and technicians.

The Department's purpose in these quarterly non-planning conferences, it would seem, is not to place its ear to the ground but to press it against a dependable sounding-board of yes-men.

Nor is the situation improved with respect to the Department's plans for public hearings and consultations. "Consultation," reads the official statement, "will be widely sought through such arrangements as committees of state and county staff members or other qualified persons." Once again, quite aside from the conspicuous absence of the public from such consultation, even the official county representation is to be carefully screened.

Formal hearings by the Welfare Department also follow the tightly controlled pattern of the planning conference: thus "final staff drafting and committee or consultant work will have to be completed at least two and a half months prior to the effective date and one month before the public hearing." It is promised that these agenda matters "will be circulated in advance of hearings among all interested persons and groups"--but in fact this has not been the case.

The real nature of the Welfare Department's projected public hearings is divulged in a statement remarkable for its candor--which makes plain that these sessions will be nothing more than convenient occasions for the passive submission of formal opinions which might as profitably be sent through the mail:

"Future public hearings will be, in some respects, unlike the usual previous meetings of the State Social Welfare Board which combined hearings and Board actions. The formal hearings will probably attract smaller public audiences, consisting chiefly of official representatives or organizations who wish to enter into the formal record their views on the proposed regulations. By contrast with the present system, the Director will take all testimony offered under submission and will not announce his decision until after he has studied this testimony, made his own evaluation and weighed the various views in relationship to his responsibility under the law."

So much for the public hearings--which might better be labeled nonhearings since they are characterized by nothing so much as disinterest, inattention, and inaction.

As for appeals and review procedures, the Department makes this notable declaration: "All procedures in this area will remain essentially the same as they have been. The only substantive difference will be the shift in the final decision from the Board to the Director." But, of course, the appeal procedures are not essentially the same--but essentially different. Under the old Board, these sessions were wide open a free-swinging affairs, in which policy decisions could be freely discussed and staff actions were sharply and critically reviewed by a fairly impartial and independent Board. With the dismantling of the Board, all that is ended. How serious and substantial a "review" can be expected when the Welfare Department is empowered to review its own errors and delinquencies? What is the reality of an "appeal" when there is no longer any shred of independence to the body which sits to hear it?

No less revealing of the shape of welfare to come was the first meeting of the newly reconstructed Social Welfare Board, staged in the Governor's Council Room on November 6. Governor Brown himself appeared to present his charge to the Board--summarized in the urging that it "help to make the poor more visible." Unfortunately the Governor did not specify how the Board itself, shrunken in stature and throttled in voice, might become either more visible or more audible.

The vexing problem of the new Board's identity was pointed up at the meeting by the election of Jerome N. Sampson, a political associate of the Welfare Director, to the position of Executive Secretary of the Board. After Director Wedemeyer had proposed this nomination, the official minutes of the meeting record the following pertinent exchange:

"Senator Sturgeon asked if Mr. Sampson would also represent the Department as legislative representative and voiced the feeling that the Board's executive should be as independent as possible of the Department. Mr. Wedemeyer responded by indicating that the question seemed based on the last legislative session when the Department and the Welfare Study Commission (whose executive secretary served in this dual capacity) had the same broad legislative program. He indicated that he did not necessarily envisage an identical situation in future sessions and would look to his Legislative Coordinator to handle departmental positions which were not those of the Board. He also said he wanted the Executive Secretary of the Board to be fully responsive to its activities and wishes, but reiterated the fact that the Board was a part of the Department--albeit one with specific critical functions to be exercised toward the entire welfare operation."

What this means, freely translated, in that the Board and its executive should be as critical and independent of the Department as possible, while remaining totally and abjectly dependent upon it.

It remained for the new chairman of the Social Welfare Board, Percy H. Steele, Jr., to undertake the task of focusing and projecting the Board's new image. "Our role," he said in accepting the Governor's charge, "is that of students and commentators on the essential social issues of our time." And he went on to let the cup of more substantial powers pass from him. "To those who mourn the passing of the old Board and its rule-making power," said Chairman Steele, "I offer no consolation. California does not need us for that job. She does need us, however, for our present task. . . Jack, we pledge our help whenever needed."

It would be difficult to be more revealing, not to say plaintive, than that. The Board's good offices of study and comment are available "whenever needed" or called upon. Its main occupation evidently is to listen in eager obedience for the sound of the master's voice.

But what of the claim that the Board in its new definition will have the rule of "students and commentators" on the essential social issues? With its real powers of decision and action cut away it can obviously aspire to no higher role; but even a study group, established to counsel and advise on grave issues of public welfare, must have some qualifications for the job. What are the credentials of the new Board for this serious and scholarly pursuit? Has the reorganization and reshuffling of personnel reflected this new intention?

The answer is unfortunately in the negative. This is no group of professional and academic experts, selected for proven competence and authority. The preponderant majority of the Board members are devoid of these characteristics; indeed five of the seven members were originally chosen, under the old regime, as representatives of special community interests and viewpoints--not as qualified "students and commentators" with independent expertise or authority. Most notably is this true with respect to the new Executive Secretary, the real kingpin of the Board. Is he an eminent social scientist, a professor of welfare, or a social commentator of high standing? He is none of these things; he is instead a politician of local reputation.

Thus the Social Welfare Board, in its new public image, emerges in fact not as a potent instrument of study and independent commentary--but as the passive tool of administrative convenience. Shorn of any real power of action or decision, it is ill-equipped even to conduct the

academic exercise of advice and counsel--except as an echo solemnly and feebly giving back whatever answers are demanded of it.

Four months after the death and transfiguration of California's public welfare administration, it is apparent that the new broom has not swept clean--but instead is sweeping much that is dirty under the rug. The genuine powers and public protections which once were embodied in the State Social Welfare Board have not been adequately replaced in other equally responsible hands. For the most part they have gone under the rug and down the drain. Nothing constructive has been done; but much that was constructive has been undone. Neither the clients of welfare nor the wider public which supports it are adequately brought into official deliberations and decisions; neither is permitted a meaningful exercise of its right to know, its right to speak, and its right to be heard. And neither is protected by review and appeals procedures against the tyrannical abuse of an administrative power which--in the vast and growing domain of welfare--often amounts to the power of life and death.

NEW MEXICO'S FIGHT FOR ORIENTATION CENTER

Vigorous endorsement of plans for an orientation center for the blind in New Mexico was presented to a state legislative committee in January by leaders of the National Federation of the Blind and the New Mexico Federation of the Blind.

Russell Kletzing, president of the N. F. B., and Miss Pauline Gomez, head of the state federation, joined in sharp criticism of existing sheltered workshop training facilities and urged that New Mexico follow the lead of other states which have established modern centers for rehabilitation and orientation of blind persons.

Their views were clearly shared by Senator Tibo Chavez, chairman of the legislative committee, who announced that his committee has asked the American Foundation for the Blind to study present facilities for the blind, with special emphasis on the need for changes in rehabilitation. "It appears to the committee at this stage that not enough is being done to reach enough people in rehabilitation," Senator Chavez commented. "Not enough people are being reached."

He said that his committee would give serious consideration to the proposal vigorously forwarded by the New Mexico Federation for an orientation center offering pre-occupational instruction along lines of such successful centers as that in Oakland, California.

Two representatives of the American Foundation for the Blind-- Charles Brown, field consultant, and Arthur Voorhees, program specialist in vocational and rehabilitation services--already are in the state making preliminary inquiries in connection with the Foundation's study, according to an article in the ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL. They have visited the state school for the visually handicapped in Alamogordo and toured offices of the state welfare department in Albuquerque.

Testifying before the state legislative committee, N.F.B. President Kletzing pointed out that an orientation center for the blind could be established in New Mexico at an initial cost of \$100,000, with the federal government bearing 75 percent of the expense. He said the center could have a capacity of 15 to 20 students at a time, with an average stay of about six months. Thirty to 40 students could be trained annually, he said.

Kletzing strongly criticized sheltered workshops and said blind persons should be trained to hold regular jobs in business and industry. He declared the key function of an orientation center is shaping the attitude of the blind person toward greater self-confidence and desire to hold a competitive job. He noted that actual vocational training can be accomplished by vocational schools, institutes and other facilities.

Miss Gomez also scored the inadequacy of sheltered training programs and stressed the urgency of a modern orientation center. She said blind persons employed in sheltered workshops in the state are paid only 50 to 60 cents an hour--half of the federal minimum wage--and that there are frequent lay-offs. "State workshops are often called training centers. Where are the blind that they have trained?" she asked.

Senator Chavez noted that a total of about 50 blind persons are being trained in the state at the present time. By contrast H. J. Hebbeln, the welfare department's director of services for the blind, estimated that about 1,000 of the total of more than 2,000 visually handicapped persons in New Mexico could be trained to some degree.

Mark Shoesmith, manager of the Alamogordo training center,

told the committee his center is severely handicapped because of lack of funds. He indicated that raw materials for manufacture of products cannot be bought in large quantities for this reason, emphasizing "We must be competitive with our products."

THE PAKISTAN STORY: REPORT ON A REVOLUTION

Late last year the second of two epoch-making three-month seminars for teachers of blind children was concluded in Pakistan. Inspired and directed from the outset by Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant--famed blind educator who is fast becoming a legend in her lifetime--the comprehensive seminars represented the fruit of several years of research and preparation for what amounts to a quiet revolution in the treatment of blind Asians, as well as in popular and official attitudes toward them.

The ambitious scope of this pioneering educational effort, vigorously carried forward by a growing army of Pakistani teachers and workers under Dr. Grant's tutelage, is revealed and documented in a Handbook for Teachers and Parents of Blind Children in Pakistan--a detailed report on the second seminar compiled by Dr. Grant. The newly printed Handbook, over 90 pages in length, consists of 20 short chapters by seminar participants on specific problems in the education of blind youth--among them such titles as "Tactual Reading in Urdu and English," "Experiment in Integration by a Blind Teacher," and "Islamic Teachings Pertaining to Blindness."

Completion of the fall seminar, along with publication of the Handbook, has constituted an event of national significance in Pakistan. Writing of these developments in a recent letter, Dr. Grant reported: "The first copy of this Handbook was presented at a public gathering to the Minister for Education, Begum Saleem Khan herself. She came to the Convocation of the Seminar for teacher-training I have just concluded, and presented the diplomas herself. . . .

"The Convocation itself was most impressive. It was held in the Moslem Model School where the Seminar was held. The principal, Mr. Azia, went all out for a celebration because the Minister herself was to be there. The school compound was lit up with different colors of electric bulbs, I was told, and the place was all cleaned up and parts even whitewashed. The school band ushered the Minister into

the compound when her car appeared. She too was greatly impressed. The program opened with the recitation from the Holy Koran. Then I had a little blind boy from the integrated class which I started (and incidentally which I am financing) play the National Anthem on his mouth organ. This impressed the Minister and the audience of about 100 educators very much.

"Then, at the introductions, the first person I presented was the father of the boy and his mother. This was a new idea in a country which bows to the V.I.P. and brushes aside the real V.I.P. The valedictorian was also an innovation. I said it would be better not to choose the oldest member of the group to give the valedictory. This was unheard of. I suggested we choose the youngest, a teacher of 21, who in my opinion had made more progress in self-growth than anyone in the class.

"Well, to suggest that he should do it was like a bombshell--and when I gave the reasons, they still could not break away from tradition. Gradually they came to see that there were other and perhaps better ways of doing things than just the old ways; and I of course referred to the whole subject of the education of their blind children. Well, the young man--who had worn a tie for the first time in his life that evening--gave a marvelous speech, simple and straightforward, saying that as a young man, a Pakistani, with all of his career in front of him, he now dedicated his life to the teaching of his fellow blind Pakistanis."

In the article that follows, reprinted from the Handbook for Teachers and Parents of Blind Children in Pakistan, Dr. Grant discusses the peculiar background and characteristics of the situation in which the blind population of one emerging Asian country find themselves today.

THE SITUATION IN PAKISTAN

By Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant

With the joint approval and sponsorship of the Office of Educational Exchange, Department of State, U.S.A., The United States Educational Foundation for Pakistan and the Department of Education, West Pakistan, Dr. Isabelle L. D. Grant came to Pakistan in September, 1962 with the purpose of assisting in a programme for the education of blind children. Dr. Grant has been associated with this field

of work for the last sixteen years in California, U.S.A.

From a study made three years ago, and from information gathered through a preliminary study in September, 1962, it was found that there were six residential schools, which blind children were attending throughout West and East Pakistan; the Ida Rieu Poor Welfare Society School in Karachi, the Kindeel School in Rawalpindi, the Government School for the Blind in Behawalpur, the Rotary School for the Blind in Dacca, and the Islamia School for the Blind sometimes called the Hospital School, also in Dacca, and the Sunrise School for the Blind in Lahore. Besides these there were institutes for blind persons attended by older adolescents and blind adults, usually with sheltered workshops attached.

In Lahore, there is the Government Institute for the Blind; in Karachi the Adult Blind Centre. There is also in Lahore the Blind Welfare Association, West Pakistan, with eye clinic and rehabilitation centre, and in Hyderabad, an institute for the blind. Several projects have been recently established, an Institute for the Blind in Peshawar, another in Quetta, and four residential schools in East Pakistan, one in Chittagong, one in Khulna, one in Raj Shahi and one in Dacca. It must be noted that these institutes are not primarily schools for the education of blind children, from six to sixteen. They are essentially vocational training centres. Seven blind children are attending the Pasrur Girls' Middle School, these blind children being integrated in the regular classes with the sighted pupils when their proficiency in braille reading and writing warrants.

The number of blind children attending any education institution in both wings is considerably less than two hundred, a very small number indeed, considering the thousands, perhaps one lakh of blind children of school-going age from five to sixteen or eighteen, throughout the two wings. To include visually handicapped children that is children with an impairment which renders them unable to use ordinary print text books, would be to double or perhaps treble that number.

It was found that all these schools were the residential type with hostel arrangements, providing food and clothing for the children. Chair-caning and basketry were included in the curriculum of practically every school, even with very young children. The academic subject in general received some attention, with braille reading and Holy Koran being taught in every school. Typewriting as a means of communication with sighted persons received little or no stress. Because of the lack of textbooks in braille, little attempt was made to follow the curriculum of education given to sighted children in the regular schools.

Many of the teachers, themselves blind, had received what education they had from the same schools in which they were now teaching. Their programme of instruction had consisted mainly of Urdu, Holy Koran, braille code, some English, and chair-caning. Only a very few teachers held a valid teaching credential, a Junior or Senior Vernacular, a Certificate of Teaching, or a higher degree. There is no doubt, however, that the trend is towards trying to find certificated teachers for these schools, to give the blind children at least equal opportunities of instruction with sighted children.

The realization of this teacher scarcity, together with the inadequacy of the training of the present teachers, were decisive factors in the search for first things first. One cannot educate children, blind or sighted, without teachers. Dr. Grant attended the conference in Hannover, Germany, August, 1962 on Education of Blind Youth in the Emergent Countries, and the Malaya Conference Kuala Lumpur, May, 1963, where the great need for more and better teachers for blind children in developing countries was emphasized. The consensus of deliberations during the conferences pointed out the need for broader schemes to provide for more education for many more of the world's blind children than are at present receiving education. Where Government funds are limited for this purpose, the opening of integrated or open schemes of education in the regular schools, with the aid of special or resource teachers, was recommended.

Following this preliminary study, it was decided that the immediate need was for teachers specially trained in this phase of education. Two seminars have been held with a total of thirty-three certificated teachers as participants. The syllabus of work covered in the three months period was comprehensive and far-reaching. In the second seminar sessions were held six days per week, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Field trips with preliminary discussion and follow-up evaluations formed a significant part of the work. Study trips were made to the integrated class in Pasrur, to the Kindeel Blind School in Rawalpindi, to the Sunrise School for the Blind, Lahore, to the Rehabilitation Centre of the Blind Welfare Association, and to the Centre of the Pakistan Association of the Blind.

A series of lectures on the Structure and Hygiene of the Eye, on the Causes and Incidence of Blindness in Pakistan, on Vision Screening, and kindred topics, was delivered by a local ophthalmologist.

Practice teaching and demonstration lessons were conducted in

the Joan Mac Donald School, Lahore, where a resource class under a participant from the first seminar is now organized. Procedures in Counseling and Guidance with blind children were a vital part of the programme and were conducted in Urdu. Equipment, though limited, consisted of educational toys, braille slates and styluses, braille machines, cubarithms, abacus, Taylor slates, braille maps, tracing wheels, typewriter, braille rulers, tapemeasures, watches, and the like with a generous supply of braille books in English and a few in Urdu. Local libraries were consulted, and a good bibliography was completed, including the Hannover and the Malaya materials, and personal copies of textbooks and reports.

In broad terms, the syllabus covered such topics as social, psychological, educational, vocational, and economic implications of blindness in Pakistan; cultural attitudes towards blindness; comparative study of schemes of education for blind youth, methodology, reading and writing of Urdu and English braille, observation, practice teaching, and study of aids and other equipment. Periodic and final examinations were given on the successive units of work. A diploma was granted on the fulfilment of the course requirements.

With these thirty-three participants from the two seminars, teachers-in-waiting, qualified to initiate and conduct a programme of education in keeping with the needs of their individual communities, the way is now clear, with the co-operation and assistance of the Government, through its representatives, the Directors, and the Inspectors, to make beginnings where no scheme at the moment exists, to enlarge where one does exist, and to extend and enrich the existing programmes in the residential schools. It is imperative that a training course in the education of blind children be inaugurated in local training colleges and normal schools.

We await the GO signal. We teachers are ready.

Bring us the blind children!

But in the situation which exists at present, recruitment of blind children into education is one of the most delicate problems. In Pakistan, the pattern of the family with a blind child is to hide the child from the view of even the closest relatives, regarding that child as evidence of guilt, sin, and punishment. This attitude obtains in middle and upper class families, with the result that people consider that blindness occurs only in the economically poor families. Investigation shows this not to be the case. Multiple blindness is found in many middle and upper class families, where hereditary eye diseases,

like retinitis pigmentosa, glaucoma, macular degeneration, have blinded several members of the same family. Trachoma is also not the monopoly of the economically poorer classes, for personal and social hygiene and sanitation leave much to be desired.

Blind children are difficult to recruit for any programme of education, when they are the source of income for the family. Education is far from the minds of the illiterate parents of blind children, who in the first place cannot conceive of a blind child's being educated and in the second place are infesting streets, trains, buses, mosques, with their gainfully occupied, but hapless children.

COURT RULES AGAINST BENNY PARRISH

A Superior Court in Alameda County, California, has ruled against the appeal by Benny Parrish, blind Oakland social worker who was discharged for insubordination by the county welfare department a year ago as a result of his refusal to take part in surprise mass raids on the homes of recipients of Aid to Needy Children. (See THE BLIND AMERICAN, January 1963.)

The adverse court decision, handed down in December, came after extended litigation which began when Parrish unsuccessfully appealed his dismissal to the Alameda County Civil Service Commission. He then sought a review of this decision in the Superior Court. Appeal of his case to a higher court is now planned. His position has won wide support among professional groups such as the California Social Workers Organization and the bay area chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Blind Americans have had a twofold interest in the Parrish case: first because Parrish is himself blind, but second (and more importantly) because of the ominous precedent for all categories of welfare aid recipients set by the mass visitations upon recipients of A.D.C. Something of the character of that threat was recently summarized in a mimeographed statement, "Background and Issues in Parrish Versus Alameda County," released by the Parrish Constitutional Rights Fund, an ad hoc group organized to gain financial support for Parrish's court appeals.

The statement points out that the issue originated in an edict

by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in November, 1962, ordering the county welfare director to carry out surprise early-morning calls on homes of the needy families. "The purpose was to discover fraud, in particular the presence of an unreported man in the home. The plan included surprise visits to randomly selected families not suspected of fraud as well as suspected families." The unannounced raids were carried out, as scheduled, on the morning of January 13, 1963.

"According to plan, the social worker was to gain entry, not by force but by reliance upon previously established relationships. Upon entry, he was expected to gain the admission of a second employee, stationed at the back entrance with instructions to watch for persons fleeing by door or window. The two employees were then to search rooms, closets, beds and under beds. The plan contemplated using half the staff on the first 'Operation Weekend' and the other half on a second one. Mr. Benny Parrish was assigned to the first and refused to participate on professional and constitutional grounds. Two social workers resigned rather than follow the instructions. Many others are said to have participated reluctantly."

According to the Parrish defense fund statement, the main legal issues in the court appeal are these: "The random raids violated the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U. S. Constitution and comparable provision of the State Constitution in that they denied recipients of Aid to Needy Children subject to such random raids (1) the equal protection of the laws, (2) the right to due process, and (3) freedom from unreasonable search and seizure.

"The random raids were based on an assumption of guilt, treated A.N.C. clients as 'second-class citizens,' subjected them to dragnet procedures, and was a bill of attainder. Mr. Parrish's dismissal violated his constitutional right not to engage in an unconstitutional act, bearing potential penalties. . . .

"Social workers have an interest in obtaining a judicial decision that may clarify the distinction between social work investigation and fraud investigation and safeguard it. Public employees have an interest in having the scope of duties and responsibilities undertaken in employment contracts respected. All citizens have an interest in the protection of their constitutional rights. We should be particularly concerned for those whose need for public aid may lead them to admit searchers without warrants when persons not so situated would refuse them entry."

The Parrish Constitutional Rights Fund has as its chief purpose the raising of funds to aid Parrish's legal defense. Its statement has been widely distributed across the nation to schools and organizations in the field of welfare.

SERVICE AWARD TO ANTHONY MANNINO

Anthony Mannino, executive secretary of the American Brotherhood for the Blind and president of Active Blind, Inc., of Los Angeles, was recently named by the Sertoma Club of Westwood Village as its 1963 "Service to Mankind Award" winner.

Long active in organizations of the blind, Mannino lost his sight early in life and subsequently was production manager and superintendent of an Eastern manufacturing firm for 17 years before deciding to move to the west coast.

In Los Angeles he attended the Braille Institute to learn braille, and there joined a group of blind writers in workshop sessions--his first systematic personal contact with other blind people.

Mannino joined and became president of the Los Angeles County Club of Adult Blind, now known as Active Blind, Inc. A member and leader in the California Council of the Blind, he has devoted much of his time to promoting its services and generally advancing the cause of the organized blind.

He is a member of the Los Angeles Braille Institute's Advisory Committee on Blindness as well as of the Advisory Committee of the Los Angeles Junior League's Information Center for the Blind.

EMPIRE STATE BLIND REJOIN N. F. B.

The Empire State Association of the Blind has again become an affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, according to an announcement by Russell Kletzing, president of the N. F. B.

The reaffiliation was completed by the New York blind group at its 1963 convention last fall, and subsequently approved by the National Federation's executive committee without a dissenting vote.

In a letter to Dominic DeJohn, president of the Empire State Association, Kletzing expressed the gratification of the N.F.B. and noted that "the executive committee members, along with others I have spoken to, have indicated considerable pleasure at this development. We welcome your strong support in the legislative and other work of the Federation."

At its fall convention the E.S.A.B. reelected DeJohn, whose home is in Brooklyn, to another term as president. Other officers are: first vice president, Albert Wylaz; second vice president, Anthony Parise; treasurer, Dorothea Vogel; secretary, Marion Burke.

MICHIGAN CONGRESSMAN HAILS ORGANIZED BLIND

By Stanley Oliver

(Editor's Note: Mr. Oliver, a veteran leader in the ranks of the organized blind both nationally and in Michigan, is well known to readers of THE BLIND AMERICAN as an active and welcome contributor to these pages.)

Nearly 100 blind members of the Michigan Council of the Blind, along with Lions Club officers and other sighted friends, gathered on December 10 at the Canadian Legion Hall in Ferndale for an early Christmas celebration climaxed with a vigorous address by Michigan Congressman Alvin Bentley.

T. Fred Lawton, composer of Michigan's popular "Varsity" song, read some of his wise and humorous poetry to the great delight of the audience. Mrs. Hamby, president of the South Oakland County chapter of the Michigan Council, greeted the group and turned over MC duties to Mrs. Bessy Fowler.

Congressman Bentley flew in from Washington, D. C. to attend the affair. The congressman, one of Michigan's leading industrialists, has been for many years a leading personality in Republican party

circles, and is active in the administration of Governor Romney.

"Blind people in my state," observed Mr. Bentley, "should not be worried about their status under the new state constitution." In this the speaker made clear that from his knowledge the current state agency, the Division of Services for the Blind, would continue and perhaps even be enlarged in its work. (Since Mr. Bentley's remarks, the director of social welfare, Mr. Bernie Houston, has expressed himself as looking to vigorous expansion of this department and has requested the addition of five new staff people, relying on Governor Romney's intention to expand all state services as influential with the legislature.)

"The real need of blind people in Michigan," stated Mr. Bentley, "is to acquaint their legislators with their problems in order to get the serious consideration of our lawmakers." The speaker recalled his own strong espousal of the Kennedy-Baring Bill some four years ago, introduced by the late John F. Kennedy, then a senator. The bill, which received week-long hearings before the House sub-committee on Labor and Education, would have established rights for the blind in the field of self-determination and self-expression. Mr. Bentley felt, from the weight of available evidence, that "first-class citizenship" was being substantially denied many blind people in the fields of rehabilitation and assistance.

"Three factors are needed," according to Mr. Bentley, "for a blind person to achieve economic self-sufficiency. These are, first and foremost, courage; secondly, ability--much of this can be evoked with good rehabilitation services--and lastly, an opportunity to become a useful and meriting productive member of society." Quoting from research figures, Mr. Bentley noted that whereas in a specified period some 51 Michigan blind wage-earners paid \$335.00 in taxes, during the same time if they had been on assistance they would have cost the state some \$850.00.

Voluntary associations of blind people, in the view of the speaker, serve a useful function in the building and maintenance of good morale and especially in the dissemination of practical know-how. He warned his blind listeners about the political activity of some powerful agency groups who have historically "interpreted" for the blind, who act at times to discourage and discredit voluntary associations of blind people. Mr. Bentley states flatly that he is "in the picture to stay" with regard to assisting blind people in achieving their legitimate rights within the framework of our society.

ARIZONA: PORTRAIT OF '64 CONVENTION SITE

Some five million visitors are expected to be drawn to Arizona during 1964--by virtue of a rare combination of scenery, sunshine, clear air and warm, dry climate. Among them will be several hundred delegates to the 1964 annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind, meeting at Phoenix's Westward Ho Hotel from June 30 through July 3. (For convention details, see THE BLIND AMERICAN, November, 1963.)

Activities for tourists in Phoenix and adjacent areas of the state are as varied as they are numerous. In one day you can tour a gold mine, ride among blooming cacti or go skiing. Alternatively, you may enjoy swank nightspots or a desert barbecue, go sailing or hunting for wild game.

Only 14 percent privately owned, Arizona is a massive public playground. It boasts two national parks, 15 national monuments, no less than seven national forests. There are 19 Indian reservations covering almost 20 million acres for 110,000 Indians of 14 different tribes.

Within Phoenix itself there are many interesting places to go and things to do. Southwest culture is preserved in an old Spanish-style former private residence on a quiet street--the Heard Museum of Anthropology and Primitive Arts. Its rooms and landscaped interior courtyard contain artifacts of many Indian cultures: Hohokam bowls, Apache and Pima basketry, Navaho rugs and silver, and Hopi katchina dolls.

The Phoenix Art Museum contains a million dollars' worth of great art works, including representative sculptures. The Phoenix Symphony brings in distinguished soloists for its concerts. The Little and Musical Theatres present play series, plus a Shakespeare festival. The Sombrero Playhouse features top Hollywood stars during its winter play season.

Nearby are the massive Japanese flower gardens adjacent to South Mountain Park; the pre-planned community of Carefree to the north, and Taliesin West, the late Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural school and foundation in Paradise Valley.

West of Flagstaff on U.S. 66 is the main road north to that fantastic natural wonder, the Grand Canyon. Within this National

Park are plant species representative of 1,000 miles of earth latitude (mid-Mexico to Canada). East of Flagstaff is Petrified Forest National Park, where fallen giants have turned to many-colored stone. Nearby is the Painted Desert.

Northwest of Flagstaff the 10-million-acre reservation of the Navajo Indians completely surrounds the smaller Hopi reservation with its ancient villages.

Southwest of Phoenix 120 miles is Tucson, Arizona's second-largest city, which still holds much of its original Old Spanish charm. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, in the Tucson Mountains, presents a living record of the desert. Most species of desert animals, birds and plants are shown in their natural habitat. A unique underground tunnel with windows in the earth lets visitors view animals in their subterranean homes. Children enjoy playing in a pit with desert tortoises.

Nearby is Old Tucson, a false-front western town where movies are often made and which regularly features stagecoach rides, gun battles and bank holdups. Due south of Tucson 65 miles is Nogales, Mexico, where visitors can shop for Mexican crafts, visit cantinas and cheer matadors in the Plaza de Toros. Seventy miles southeast of Tucson is notorious Tombstone with its Boothill cemetery, the OK Corral and the Bird Cage Theatre.

All this and more--plus a great convention--awaits vacationing Federationists who hit the Arizona trail come summer.

A. M. A. ON EMPLOYMENT OF HANDICAPPED

(Editor's Note: Following is a statement on employment of the handicapped approved in September, 1963, by the Council on Occupational Health of the American Medical Association. The statement supplements an earlier resolution on the same subject approved in 1962 by the A. M. A. 's House of Delegates. Its express purpose is to "place the American Medical Association squarely in support of the principle of employment of the handicapped" as well as to indicate specific ways of implementing that objective.)

To further implement the efforts of the American Medical Association, and other groups, in disseminating knowledge to employers and to the general public concerning this problem, the Council presents the following material.

Employers have not, as yet, fully recognized the presence of a large reservoir of unused manpower, which has a very valuable contribution to make. Comprehensive and documented studies of the performance of the handicapped have repeatedly shown excellent job performance, as well as less absenteeism and better safety records than in comparable groups of able-bodied workers. In most circumstances, such employment does not lead to increased workmen's compensation costs. Factual material can do much to correct the many misconceptions and rumors surrounding this entire subject. There is, therefore, a continuing need to disseminate these facts as widely as possible.

The principle of evaluating ability, rather than disability, of a potential employee deserves continued emphasis. The phrase "an equal opportunity employer" should not relate solely to race or creed, but also should apply to those who have some physical or mental impairment. Strict placement requirements are unavoidable for certain jobs, but if the type of work permits, the handicapped individual should receive equal consideration with any other worker.

The handicapped have a strong motivation to succeed. In any group of workers, some individuals can be expected to be poorly motivated, but many studies suggest that there are fewer of these in the handicapped group because of the challenges they face in competing for employment.

The efforts of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped in developing medical criteria for employment of specific groups, encouraging improvements in architectural design of buildings, stimulating rehabilitative procedures, and in promoting an educational campaign to industrial management and the public, merit our support and commendation.

Legislative changes in workmen's compensation acts, which penalize the individual with physical or mental impairment by placing additional roadblocks in the path of self-sustaining opportunity and employment, are objectionable and should be opposed by all interested groups.

Present trends in manufacturing indicate progressively less need for physical labor, particularly in the unskilled or semi-skilled groups. Physical impairments, therefore, will have decreasing

importance, and concurrently the importance of brain power will increase. Many so-called "handicapped" already have needed skills, or have the potential to develop them as readily as the non-handicapped. Employers are encouraged to recognize and utilize these facts in their future plans.

Successful employment of the handicapped involves:

1. Proper medical evaluation of the physical and mental condition of the applicant;
2. Evaluation of the applicant's physical and intellectual capacity for work;
3. Proper job placement, in which the employee can utilize his maximum functions and skills, without affecting adversely his own health or exposing his fellow workers to increased hazards. (This requires cooperation between administrative personnel and the medical department.)
4. Periodic re-evaluation of the employee's health status to protect his capabilities for continuing satisfactory employment.

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Love Rekindled. "To those who rejoice in belated romance," writes our Colorado Correspondent, Mrs. Ethel Mahaney, "this story should be of interest." (Uneditor's Note: We agree. Herewith our correspondent's report from the scene, unedited.)

"Many of the blind friends of Mrs. Ruth Jesmer and Mr. Vern Ashby were not a little surprised when Ruth and Vern were quietly married last November 29, after almost fifty years of separation. What some of them didn't know, however, is that Ruth and Vern became teenage sweethearts while they were both attending the School for the Blind in Colorado Springs. After leaving school they just sort of drifted apart, each marrying someone else.

"Ruth, who lived for a number of years in Kremmling, Colorado, moved to Denver last September and got herself settled into a comfortable apartment. Two weeks later she accepted an invitation to dinner at the home of a friend. By some strange coincidence, Vern chanced to drop in that evening also. Right then and there the romance was renewed, and in two months' time they were married.

"They are now settled in a charming new home which Vern purchased before they were married. It was open house on New Year's Eve at the Ashby's, 139 South Julian Street, and many friends dropped in to offer congratulations and to wish them many years of happiness together.

"The new bride was elected alternate delegate to the N. F. B. Phoenix convention at our own state convention in October, and her husband will accompany her to the national meeting."

* * * * *

Missouri Blind Convene. The second annual convention of the Progressive Blind of Missouri, Inc., was held at the Aladdin Hotel in Kansas City, November 15-17. According to information received from Mrs. Gwen Rittgers, the following officers were elected: president, George Rittgers; vice president, Mrs. Tiny Beedle; recording secretary, Mrs. Bobbie Brashier; treasurer, Mrs. May Pelsor; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Gwen Rittgers. Board members are Mrs. Doris Miller; Earley E. Busby, John Nordyke, and the Rev. George Jenkins.

Fifty-five members attended the Saturday evening convention banquet at which Postmaster Ted C. Bland was principal speaker and Attorney General Mike Combs, a sighted member of the club, acted as master of ceremonies. President Rittgers presented the Dr. Jacobus tenBroek Award for 1963 to William H. Crowe, executive director of the Kansas City Association for the Blind, for his efforts in establishing a braille library in the Kansas City area.

* * * * *

More on Colorado. In our last roundup of state conventions (October issue), due to limitations both of space and information, short shrift was had by all. Especially slighted in the shrifting

process was the annual convention of the Colorado Federation of the Blind, held October 26 in Denver. Here is the roster of elected officers which we were unable then to pass on to readers: president, Cliff Jensen (re-elected); first vice president, Sam Matzner; second vice president, Ray McGeorge; corresponding secretary, Marie Jensen (re-elected); treasurer, Georgia Coxe; recording secretary, Ethel Mahaney. George Newell was re-elected to the board of directors, while Ruth Jesmer and Rena Brunswig were newly chosen board members.

* * * * *

And There Was Light. The foregoing is the title of a new autobiography by a remarkable French Resistance leader, Jacques Lusseyran. Blinded accidentally at the age of eight, the author was shipped off to Buchenwald concentration camp eleven years later as a leader of the French Underground. Describing his first-person narrative in the Book-of-the-Month Club NEWS, Elsbeth Couch writes: "Those who lose courage easily might do well to read this intense and often moving book, which tells of the first twenty years in the life of the author. . . . His story offers two great adventures: that of a blind boy finding the light within himself, and that of a blind adolescent becoming a guide to others in the Resistance.

"In tune with the author, one senses how it may be possible to see noise and hear sights, and to achieve an almost mystical sense of union with the universe. One begins to understand deep friendships that almost break the barrier of individuality, and the intoxication, comradeship, fear and faith that were the Resistance. . . . Here is a man who always regarded himself as a forceful agent, never as a victim. Whoever waits for hope and meaning in life to come from outside should read his book."

* * * * *

New Braille Binder Invented. A new mechanical process for binding braille books has been invented by a librarian at the Jewish Guild for the Blind, according to a release by the nonsectarian New York City Guild. The inventor is Bernard M. Krebs, whose binder is expected to make it possible for any braille transcribing group to do its own permanent or temporary binding at a very minimal cost. Books of 35, 70, or 105 pages may be bound and the binder reopened and re-

used, the Guild reports.

From the original hand-transcribed copy of a braille page, plastic copies are made by machine. The Krebs binder, soon to be manufactured by the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky, reportedly will permit copies to be bound in quantity for use in schools or libraries where blind students must keep up with their sighted classmates.

* * * * *

Merle E. Frampton Wins Honor. Dr. Merle E. Frampton, principal of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, has been awarded the National Order of Merit of the Republic of Paraguay. Dr. Frampton, who has addressed National Federation of the Blind conventions and is well-known for his contributions to Congressional and Administrative studies of welfare and rehabilitation practices affecting the blind, has assisted South American countries for more than 25 years in building schools and training teachers for the physically handicapped. He received the award in a presentation last September by Dr. Raul Sapena Pastor, Paraguay's minister of foreign affairs.

* * * * *

Award to Gwen Rittgers. Mrs. Gwen Rittgers, recently retired staff director of the Kansas City Association for the Blind's Education and Recreation Center, was the recipient recently of the first annual plaque of the Kansas City Association in honor of her notable work and devotion to the cause of blind people. The wife of George Rittgers, president of the Progressive Blind of Missouri, Gwen was given the award at a surprise party at which her friends also presented her with funds to purchase a redwood picnic table for her new patio. Active in the proceedings was Earley E. Busby, newly appointed director of the Association's Center. Mrs. Rittgers, who had resigned her post in favor of marital responsibilities, will continue as a volunteer teacher with braille transcribing groups.

* * * * *

New Book by B.A.'s Editor. Floyd W. Matson, editor of THE BLIND AMERICAN, is the author of a forthcoming book entitled The Broken Image: Man, Science and Society. Scheduled for publication in mid-March, Dr. Matson's study is a critical examination of various theories of human nature and behavior current in the social sciences. Already chosen as a March selection by The Book Find Club, The Broken Image will be published by George Braziller, Inc., 215 Park Avenue South, New York 3, New York.

* * * * *

Trachoma Conquest Seen. A new vaccine that reportedly prevents trachoma in most cases, promising an important step towards ridding mankind of the blinding disease, has been developed by Harvard scientists and physicians, according to a recent report published in the Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER. Dr. John C. Snyder, dean of the Harvard University School of Public Health, was quoted as observing that "According to the estimates of the World Health Organization more than 500 million people in various parts of the world are afflicted with trachoma. In certain areas more than 90 percent of the population are involved."

Trachoma was said to have been prevented in about 80 percent of the children in an area of Saudi Arabia where the new vaccine was tested. Cause of trachoma, a rapidly developing infection of the eyes, is the trachoma virus, of which two varieties have been identified. The Harvard scientists made a vaccine from killed viruses of both varieties. It was noted that trachoma is still rampant in some parts of the U.S., and that American travelers abroad should be vaccinated against the disease which is even more common elsewhere in the world.

* * * * *

New Travel Guide for Blind. The Guida-Phone, an instrument substituting sound for sight, has been developed by a blind inventor of Syracuse, New York, as a travel aid for the sightless, according to an item appearing in the FLORIDA WHITE CANE BULLETIN, official publication of the Florida Federation of the Blind. Holding the Guida-Phone before him, a blind person is said to hear through an earphone noises that betray the presence of objects and even the character of pavements.

The inventor, John B. Kennon, is a motion-picture projectionist who lost his sight eight years ago as a result of an accident. He reportedly began experimenting with old hearing aids provided by Charles E. Wright, proprietor of a hearing-aid service in Syracuse. The two have since gone into partnership in development of the invention.

The Guida-Phone, which is said to resemble a pocket camera with an ear plug, "converts" light into sound. It has an optical unit with several lenses, an amplifier and a light-sensitive unit made up of solar cells. Light reflected from a rough surface such as a sidewalk creates a sound described as "grainy," while a smooth and shiny surface makes a very low rumble or hum.

* * * * *

A. P. W. A. Director Resigns. Miss Loula Friend Dunn, director of the American Public Welfare Association since 1949, resigned her position last November. In a letter to A. P. W. A. President Guy R. Justis, Miss Dunn said in part: "It is my plan to continue to use my years of experience and whatever competence I have in the best interest of public welfare. Implicit in this decision is the desire to support the principles and objectives of A. P. W. A. This, however, I hope to do without the heavy pressures of administrative demands, both in terms of time and travel. But wherever I am, and whatever I do in future, you may be assured of my commitment to the advancement and improvement of this organization."

* * * * *

Blind Therapist Honored. A blind physical therapist at the Lebanon Veterans Administration Hospital of Pennsylvania, Raymond T. Frey, is among the 71 American man nominated by their colleges for the Silver Anniversary All-American Award of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, reports a news item in THE NEW OUTLOOK. Nominee of the Lebanon Valley College, Frey had been a football and basketball star prior to losing his sight during a military training mission in 1943. While recovering he decided to enter rehabilitation work and subsequently helped more than 700 blinded veterans of World War II. He has also been awarded a citation for meritorious service in assisting employment of the physically handicapped.

* * * * *

N. Y. Commission Official Dies. Dr. David F. Gillette, board chairman of the New York State Commission for the Blind, died at Syracuse, New York, last September. A diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology, he was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and held wide memberships in ophthalmological societies.

* * * * *

More Glasses for Pakistan. Seventy pairs of glasses have already been shipped to Pakistan as a result of a new drive launched by the Worcester Chapter of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, according to information from Miss Rosamond M. Critchley. Many of the discarded spectacles are coming in through the efforts of individual members, and radio publicity has brought a surprisingly generous response from the public.

New officers of the Worcester group, elected in December, were formally installed on January 7 at a chapter meeting. The elected leaders are: president, Mrs. Dorothy Bailey; first vice president, William H. Burke; second vice president, Miss Aline Daignault; recording secretary, Miss Rosamond Critchley; corresponding secretary, Miss Eva Gilbert; financial secretary, Raoul J. Goguen; treasurer, Edward B. Murphy; sergeant-at-arms, Robert Frost; members-at-large, William Lytle and Mrs. Lillian Rich.

* * * * *

Jersey Blind Confer. Representatives of 11 organizations of the blind in New Jersey met with officials of the State Commission for the Blind January 15 to discuss common problems. Norbert Cifelli, chairman of the board of Associated Blind of New Jersey, attended the parley along with Myles Crosby, president of the State Council of N. J. Organizations of the Blind, and representatives of other groups.

As reported by the ASSOCIATED BLIND LEADER, "The meeting, promised the organizations since November, 1962, when the blind were seeking legislation to protect them against alleged interference with their rights to organize, was called by the commission some 14 months after the meeting was suggested by Governor Hughes."

Organizations represented at the meeting also included the Trenton Association of the Blind, the N. J. Foundation for the Blind,

the Light Brigade, Progressive Social Club for the Blind, N. J. Recreation for the Blind, Union County Association of the Blind, North Jersey Association of the Blind, Hudson County Association of the Blind, N. J. Blind Men's Association, and the Middlesex County Association of the Blind.

The State Commission was represented at the meeting by George F. Meyer, executive director, and his staff of five department heads, plus George E. Burck, member of the commission's board of managers. Burck was appointed to the board by former Governor Robert Mayner after enactment of a law requiring that at least two members of the policy-making panel be blind.

THE BLIND AMERICAN

INKPRINT EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BROTHERHOOD FOR THE BLIND
A CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

2652 SHASTA ROAD BERKELEY 8, CALIF.

APRIL . . . 1964

THE BLIND AMERICAN

Published monthly in Braille and inkprint and distributed free to the blind by the American Brotherhood for the Blind, Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, President. National headquarters and editorial offices at 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

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RELATIVES' RESPONSIBILITY: A LANDMARK DECISION

An historic decision which casts Constitutional doubt upon responsible-relative provisions in all public welfare programs has been handed down by the California Supreme Court.

By unanimous opinion in the case of Department of Mental Hygiene v. Kirchner, decided in January, the State Supreme Court held that to impose financial responsibility upon the relative of a person receiving care in a state mental institution violates the Constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the laws. That finding rested upon a determination by the judges that such care and treatment is a publicly assumed responsibility. If public responsibilities are to be transferred to private individuals, this can only be done by taxation uniformly distributing the burden to all taxpayers.

The Court held that "A statute obviously violates the equal protection clause if it selects one particular class of persons for a species of taxation and no rational basis supports such classification. Such a concept for the state's taking of a free man's property manifestly denies him equal protection of the law."

The Court's opinion, delivered by Justice J. Schauer, denied that it was necessary to overrule previous decisions in order to reach its conclusion: "Although numerous cases can be cited wherein so-called support statutes have been sustained against various attacks, research has disclosed no case which squarely faced, considered, discussed and sustained such statutes in the light of the basic question as to equal protection of the law in a case wherein it was sought to impose liability upon one person for the support of another in a state institution."

The California court itself opened the door to the extension of its decision to other categories of publicly aided groups in these words:

"Lastly, in resolving the issue now before us, we need not blind ourselves to the social evolution which has been developing during the past half century; it has brought expanded recognition of the parens patriae principle and other social responsibilities, including the California Rehabilitation Center Act and divers other public welfare programs to which all citizens are contributing through presumptively duly apportioned taxes.

"From all of this," the opinion continued, "it appears that former concepts which have been suggested to uphold the imposition

of support liability upon a person selected by an administrative agent from classes of relatives designated by the Legislature may well be re-examined."

Pointing out that the state's Welfare and Institutions Code itself accepts this principle by declining to exact payment from a patient for his care and support in a state hospital "if there is likelihood of the patient's recovery or release from the hospital and payment will reduce his estate to such an extent that he is likely to become a burden on the community," the seven Supreme Court justices commended this evident concern for the patient on the part of the state but went on to comment: " . . . at the same time its advocacy of the case at bench would seem to indicate that it cares not at all that relatives of the patient, selected by a department head, be denuded of their assets in order to reimburse the state for its maintenance of the patient in a tax-supported institution."

If public responsibility is assumed when mentally ill or defective persons are provided care in state institutions, it is no less true that public responsibility is assumed when needy persons are provided care and maintenance out of the public treasury in their own homes. In this situation, no less than the other, it also follows that to transfer the public burden to private shoulders other than by taxation would violate the equal protection of the laws.

MY SECOND YEAR WITH THE PEACE CORPS

By Marilyn Brandt

(Editor's note: Miss Brandt, a graduate of the Texas School for the Blind and Texas State Teachers College, reported in THE BLIND AMERICAN last September on her first year as a Peace Corps volunteer serving in the Dominican Republic. In the present report, written expressly for our readers, Miss Brandt relates more details of her pioneering work as a teacher of blind youth in the Latin American republic.)

I am now in my second year at the National School for the Blind in the Dominican Republic. Sandra Ford and I have been joined by another Peace Corps volunteer, Geer Wilcox. The late arrival of several of our students followed by the military coup d'état in this

country delayed the beginning of classes until the last week of September.

We feel that our most important contribution to the social and personal lives of our students this year has been the election of a social committee in September, and another election in January. The third and final committee for the year will be chosen after Easter vacation. This was the students' first actual experience with the democratic process and with the methods of parliamentary procedure. We have left problems concerning time, place, and programing for recreational activities completely up to the committee. This acceptance of responsibility is something complete new for them.

All the boys, and over half of the girls, now are able to travel independently with their canes. Sandra has trained the secretary of the school to succeed her as typing teacher, while she herself has taught at least half the students to sign their names. I have taken half the students through a course in math probably equal to the ninth-grade level; have taught these same students world geography with the aid of Spanish texts and relief maps from the American Foundation, and I now have them in a course in world history. A three-week course in world history may sound strange to most teachers and students who study it for a year or more, but when time and materials are limited, one has to cover as many areas as possible in whatever time is available.

Next I plan a course for these students on the use of recorders, record players, and such simple tools as can openers and staplers. We plan to make a Spanish tape of the American Foundation catalog, and a list of addresses for purchasing materials in Latin America, Spain and the U.S.A.

Geer is currently working on job placement, and is teaching a carpentry class every night. The students hope to make crutches for the rehabilitation center for paralytic children as one of their projects in carpentry.

This year about half our students will graduate. It is the first graduation in the history of the school, and some of the students have been here seven years. Two students have received government scholarships to study in Argentina for two years, and will probably leave this month. I am training one girl to succeed me as teacher of math, geography and history, as well as teaching Spanish grammar. Our braille teacher is in New York learning to teach braille more effectively and attending a rehabilitation program for her personal benefit.

Sandra and I will leave when school closes in June. Geer will

remain through next year, and possibly will be joined by another volunteer. There are many projects such as a swimming class, a new building, a vending stand project, etc., which aren't off the ground yet, but we believe that with time and work and a little luck they soon will be. We have three new students, eight and ten years old, since Christmas. Next year more young students will be brought in and given an education which hopefully will compare with the education in any public or private school in this country. We are acquiring printed texts of the braille books we now have so that sighted teachers can work here. We are also printing pamphlets on the necessities and problems of persons blinded when they have reached adulthood. There is a pamphlet under translation with information for parents of blind children. We hope to have these available to the department of health and public welfare and to any other interested persons soon.

With the end of our Peace Corps work rapidly approaching, Sandra and I can see in retrospect what we have failed to do that we should have done earlier and what we have accomplished. We do feel that we have awakened the school personnel, the Dominican government, and the people who are blind, to the basic necessities of a good program for the blind--education, rehabilitation, job placement, and social workers and counselors. That was one of the most important jobs we had to do.

So life at the Escuela Nacional de Ciegos goes on just as it might at any school or rehabilitation center in the states. Before we leave for the movies tonight (a four-year old Elvis Presley movie), I have to translate the song "True Love" into Spanish, so Sandra and I can sing it next Friday at the Valentine's Day program and dance; Sandra has to cut one of the older girls' hair and take our little eight-year-old for a walk by the seaside; and Geer still has to get the measurements from me for a loom he is going to make for my art class scheduled to start after Easter. Three girls just came in asked us to please play my "Peter, Paul and Mary" album for them. Sometimes we complain because we have no privacy whatsoever, but we know that we are going to miss them so much next year, and so we try to enjoy every minute of our life and work in the Dominican Republic. It is an opportunity for experience and personal growth which too few young Americans are privileged to enjoy.

CONGRESS HEARS SHELTERED SHOP WAGE BILLS

Bills which would extend the minimum wage provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act to cover disabled workers in sheltered workshops--many of whom are blind persons--were given a significant public hearing on April 6 by a subcommittee of the House of Representatives.

Testifying in favor of the minimum-wage proposals was John F. Nagle, chief of the Washington Office of the National Federation of the Blind, who presented an oral statement and participated in subsequent discussion. A joint written statement favoring the legislation was submitted by Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, president of the American Brotherhood for the Blind, and James McGinnis, president of the California Council of the Blind.

Appearing in opposition to the wage bills were Peter J. Salmon, head of Brooklyn's Industrial Home for the Blind, and Tony Suazo, executive director of the National Association of Sheltered Workshops and Homebound Industries.

The two identical measures under consideration are H.R. 9904 and H.R. 9928, introduced by Congressmen John Dent and Dominick Daniels, both of whom are members of the General Subcommittee on Labor of the House Education and Labor Committee, which conducted the hearings. In addition to Congressman Dent two members of the subcommittee were present: Roman Pucinski, Illinois and Alonzo Bell, California. (Other members are listed below.)

The measures call for a series of progressive wage increases for sheltered shop workers, requiring that they be paid not less than 50 percent of the prevailing national minimum (now \$1.25 per hour) by January, 1965, not less than 75 percent by the following year, and that by January, 1967, the sheltered workers must receive not less than the prevailing hourly minimum wage.

Salmon and Suazo, speaking against the bills on behalf of sheltered shop management, were subjected to sharp questioning and comments by Congressmen Dent and Pucinski. For example, when Salmon presented figures on costs and income for his Brooklyn workshop, Congressman Dent noted that the labor costs represented only about 16 percent of gross sales revenue and asserted that he had never before heard of any business with such low labor costs in relation to income.

Again, when the Brooklyn workshop executive sought to justify his low wage rates by lamenting the allegedly poor productive capacities

of blind shop workers, the N. F. B. 's John Nagle intervened to point out that the great majority of blind and handicapped workers in sheltered workshops have sufficient capacity to compete on an equal basis in competitive employment if they are provided with proper training and adjustment services along with skilled help in securing employment.

In his oral testimony before the House subcommittee, Nagle urged the legislators "to recognize that disabled workers have the same problems as other workers, and share in common the same needs. We ask you to recognize and remedy the sorry plight of these workers--for their plight is a sorry one," he said.

The National Federation of the Blind official pointed out that "not only are these men and women in sheltered workshops not protected by the minimum wage provisions. . . but they are specifically denied this protection by the very provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act."

Nagle noted that in 1963 "nearly half of the sheltered workshops investigated were paying some of their disabled workers less than the very low wage rates presently permitted by law--and the number of such violations discovered shows a threefold increase over the previous year."

tenBroek-McGinnis Statement

California Council President McGinnis joined Dr. tenBroek, head of the American Brotherhood, in a detailed statement documenting the grievances of blind sheltered shop workers throughout the country with respect to wages and general working conditions.

The two blind leaders asserted that "the tragic fact is that no consistent and generally agreed-upon" definition has yet been achieved as to the character and function of sheltered workshops and the status of the handicapped workers.

"Until a clear, acceptable and just definition can be devised, the identity of these disabled workers must remain in jeopardy and at issue--with resultant waste, confusion, conflict and failure on all sides," they said.

The joint Brotherhood-Council statement noted that in most of the public and official discussion on workshops, "one voice is rarely heard. That is the voice of the disabled worker himself, characteristically a blind person, whose concern in the matter is at once the most direct and vital of all."

Pointing out that "no outside groups or interests can in truth speak for the disabled worker in the sheltered shop," their statement continued: "Only the worker himself can do that--both directly, on the rare occasions when his individual voice may be heard, and indirectly through his own democratic voluntary organizations.

"During the past few years the voice of the shop worker has in fact been heard with increasing force and clarity," tenBroek and McGinnis said. "Blind workers in particular have made use of their own voluntary state associations, united in the National Federation of the Blind, to give organized expression to their demand for an adequate definition of their status and a reasonable reward for their labor.

"At the same time they have been systematically beginning to organize as an employee group, seeking union affiliation and recognition, and collective bargaining rights, through negotiation where possible and through strike action where necessary," the statement observed.

Citing a long series of militant activities by sheltered shop workers in various parts of the country--notably in Cleveland, Dallas, St. Louis, San Diego and Berkeley--the tenBroek-McGinnis statement focused upon "three main points of grievance" commonly raised by the handicapped workers in their organized protests:

"First, low wages consistently below the national minimum, coupled with discrimination and inequities in job classifications which have the effect of barring blind workers from normal advancement opportunities open to all others;

"Second, poor management, in terms both of simple ineptness and of irrational prejudice against the workers--the former expressed in terms of unnecessary delays, layoffs, low-quality production and excessive operating costs--the latter in terms of contemptuous attitudes and outright bullying directed against the blind workers; and

"Third, inadequate training methods, carried out by unqualified instructors, performed on obsolete and poorly maintained equipment, and reflecting stereotyped convictions of the inability of blind persons to master any trades other than the most elementary and menial.

"The protest which is embodied in this wave of militant activity on the part of blind and disabled sheltered workers is unmistakable. It is a protest against an employment situation intolerable in its inequities and injustice; and it is a demand for recognition of the minimum rights of shop workers both as free citizens and as employees," the blind leaders said.

Letters supporting the two progressive wage bills for sheltered shop workers--H.R. 9904 and H.R. 9928--should be sent to the Hon. James Roosevelt, Chairman, General Subcommittee on Labor, Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington 25, D.C. Letters should also be sent to any subcommittee members who are from your state. The other members are: John Dent, Pa.; Roman Pucinski, Ill.; Dominick Daniels, N.J.; Thomas Gill, Hawaii; Augustus Hawkins, Calif. These are the Democratic members of the Subcommittee. The Republicans are: William H. Ayres, Ohio; Charles E. Goddell, N.Y.; Dave Martin, Neb.; Alonzo Bell, Calif.

N.F.B. WORLD FUND: REPORT FROM PAKISTAN

By Dr. Isabelle Grant

Do you realize how far-reaching are the activities of the National Federation of the Blind? Do we of the N.F.B. realize that our hands are reaching out to the far corners of the world, greeting our fellow blind, and lending a generous helping hand wherever and whenever we find a need? For, this is the way it is.

The first step in this campaign of friendship and aid was taken last July at the N.F.B. convention in Philadelphia when, through the on-the-barrel-head forthrightness of Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, substantial backing was given to our warm expressions of desire to help those blind persons less fortunate than we are, economically, educationally and socially. The response was unanimous, for we all wanted to share in this worth-while gesture of humanitarianism, of respect, and of love.

Armed with one hundred slates and styluses, thirty pounds of braille paper (the gift of the Wheeling, West Virginia paper works) and cartons of other braille equipment, I set out to "conquer" the apathy towards the education of blind children in Pakistan and a like apathy towards rehabilitation of blind persons. I shall be happy if only a dent is made in this enormous problem. May I now share with you my innermost secret and joy that a small dent has indeed been made, measured by government interest and participation, by newspaper commentaries, by the voice of educators, principals and teachers at numerous meetings, and by the actual opening of the school doors to blind children.

That is a tremendous step forward in this struggling but challenging country. I rarely now hear the question so often thrown at me my first year: why educate our blind children at all until we first educate our sighted children? Or this other one: suppose you do educate them, then what will they do? Still beg? My throat tightened and I failed to suppress the tears when I heard a principal say at a meeting last week, in which we were discussing plans for educating our blind children here, "Why didn't we start this long ago?" Thus is the attitude changing.

In these newly emergent lands, education has to take its place among the other urgencies in a developing country, so that progress in the field of educating all children will be slow--maybe as much as ten to fifteen years before the enactment and execution of free compulsory education, even for the first three years of primary school. But the seeds of education for both sighted and blind children have been planted and they will grow, given time.

My main field of activity here has been training teachers for the instruction of blind children, for my knowledge of the vernacular is still inadequate--so that with my academic Urdu and my ignorance of the dialect Punjabi, my best work is that of helping teachers. I have conducted two seminars, and already some of the teachers are teaching blind children in the regular schools and in residential schools. With the resource teachers in my groups, I am now making plans to set up a transcribing unit in Urdu braille. That is our next step.

At a joint meeting of the headmasters and resource teachers held in the office of the Inspector of Schools, I offered as a gift from the National Federation of the Blind--Russell Kletzing, president--a gift kit of braille equipment to each school having an integrated class and a resource teacher. The gift was unanimously accepted. The recipient schools are: (1) Islamia School, Bhatti Gate; (2) Muslim Model High School (primary, middle and high) near Urdu Bazar; (3) Muslim Model School, Lahore Cantonment; (4) Government Pilot School, Wahdat Colony; (5) Government School, Lahore Cantonment; (6) City Muslim League, Primary School; (7) Junior Central Model School, near District Court; (8) Rang Mahal Mission School; and (9) Joan MacDonald School.

These are all government or semi-government regular schools. You may be interested in the contents of each kit of materials. The items are: eight pounds of braille paper; five slates and styluses; one cubarithm with fifty cubes; one Taylor slate with fifty pegs; one Sewell Board with 100 plastic sheets; one tracing wheel for map-making; one braille ruler with inches and centimeters; one braille tape measure; five small packages of self-threading needles; three decks

braille playing cards (request from blind boys); one braille manual of Standard English braille, braille edition; same, inkprint edition; one music notation, braille edition. The order for the nine kits has been sent to the American Printing House and to our treasurer, Franklin Van Vliet.

Of course, you will see that I have been concentrating on Pakistan; but other countries have also been included in the N.F.B. gift; among them, India, Afghanistan, Taiwan, and Ceylon.

Readers of THE BLIND AMERICAN will be interested to know that our blind friends in Australia have indicated they too wish to be of help to their fellow blind in Pakistan. The Queensland Association for the Blind, through Mr. W. Mills, Manager of the Queensland Industrial Workshop in Brisbane, and my very good friend (and your friend) Tim Fuery, also of Brisbane, have during this past winter sent upwards of fifty pounds of braille paper for the use of blind persons here. The Pakistan Association of the Blind has received parcels of this paper, as has the government Institute for the Blind, Lahore, along with the schools, both residential and integrated. Tim is an ardent reader of THE BLIND AMERICAN and sometimes tells me the news before my copy arrives in Pakistan.

Perhaps some of our readers would like to have more information about life in these parts, or perhaps just some foreign stamps. Please write to me at the Y.W.C.A., 14 Queens Road, Lahore, West Pakistan. Please use Airegrams; they are cheaper and more apt to get to their destination than is regular mail.

Running hot water, a shower, friend bacon, two lamb chops with potatoes and gravy, a typewriter that writes, and a good pow-wow with all the folks of the N.F.B. --that would be heaven for me at the moment. Arizona, here I come!

CALIFORNIA'S BLIND WORKERS SHOW VISION

By Bud Aronson

(Editor's note: Mr. Aronson is secretary-treasurer of the Union of State Employees, Local 411, AFL-CIO, the union responsible for the successful organization of blind workers in California Industries

for the Blind workshops. A former interne with the Coro Foundation, Mr. Aronson prepared his article for publication in the March 1964 issue of the Foundation's BULLETIN.)

The wondrous joy flowing from the visual perception of a multitude of daily sights is not the only benefit denied blind workers in the State of California. Hundreds of sightless men and women employed in the State's sheltered workshops, known as California Industries for the Blind, are also deprived of many basic forms of protection accorded to their sighted counterparts in both private and public employment. Most important of the missing benefits is protection under the State's minimum wage law. Also noticeably lacking is a guaranteed work week. Consequently, it is perfectly legal to pay these workers as little as 50, 60 or 70 cents per hour, and it is equally legal to send them home after they report to work or to instruct them not to come to work for one or a number of days.

Of course, abundant explanations are readily available as to why blind workers are not treated just like any other workers. The usual argument advanced by government sources is that the blind in the sheltered workshops are primarily trainees rather than employees, that the chief objective of the workshop is to provide them with the vocational and personal rehabilitation necessary to equip them for a successful, gainful life on the outside. According to this theory, their stay in the workshop should be as brief as is possible, and as soon as the rehabilitation process has been completed, they should be placed on remunerative outside jobs.

The only trouble with this argument is that few workers ever graduate from workshops to outside employment. The great majority are destined to remain at their same old stand making brooms and mattresses, or sewing and folding linen for the remainder of their productive lives. Perhaps someday when society is more understanding and cooperative, or when the workshops teach more meaningful and adaptable skills, workshops may indeed become the mere stopping-off places they are intended to be, but, in the meantime, there is not the slightest indication that their present role is about to change.

In this context, it was not particularly surprising that in early 1963 the overwhelming majority of the 80 workers at the Berkeley CIB plant should see fit to become members of Union of State Employees, Local 411, AFL-CIO. After all, their grievances were numerous and important, and years of dissatisfaction gave no rise to hope of their solution. What was surprising, at least to many observers, was the

tenacious militancy they would exhibit, a militancy which was to prove once and for always that sightlessness had not deprived them of the ability to recognize their own self-interest.

Early in May a number of broom makers engaged in a brief work-stoppage when their demands for improvements were not met. Acquiescence by management resulted in a speedy resumption of production. However, workshop officials then retaliated by laying off 40 workers--one half of the entire work force. Management's contention that the layoff was forced by a surplus of unsold brooms piled up in the workshop was belied by Local 411's discovery that a large order for 800 dozen brooms had been placed by the State with a Texas organization.

It was at this point that the workers had to choose between insuring their jobs and returning to the old frustrating existence, or to take a calculated risk by remaining with the Union and "voting with their feet." Their decision was virtually unanimous: to go out on strike. Fully sanctioned by the Alameda Central Labor Council and supported by all organized labor, the entire work force--with four lone exceptions--left their jobs and set up a picketline around the plant. Another delegation of strikers was sent to Sacramento, where picketlines were established outside the State Capitol, while the Legislature was in session, and the building of the Department of Education, which at that time administered the blind workshops. Legislators and State officials were equally surprised and apparently disturbed to see blind pickets, some of them accompanied by seeing-eye dogs, marching in orderly fashion around their buildings.

Two days of strike action, aided by generous publicity in all the communications media, led to a successful conclusion of the first authentic strike of blind workers in California history. Terms of the settlement included immediate rehiring of all workers--including the 40 whose layoff precipitated the work stoppage--and management's agreement to negotiate on all outstanding issues.

Although the story is far from finished, this new chapter augurs well for the future of blind workers in the State. That they will no longer stand for the exploitive practices of the past has been demonstrated in unmistakable terms. Better wages, improved working conditions and, above all else, attainment of the same dignity and recognition sought by all mankind since the beginning of time--these are the goals of California's blind workers.

ARTISTIC ARIZONA: N. F. B. CONVENTIONLAND '64

By James and Maurine Fall

(Editor's note: Mr. Fall is president of the Arizona Federation of the Blind, host affiliate for the 1964 Phoenix convention of the National Federation of the Blind. His article was prepared for circulation by the N. F. B. to its members as a preconvention bulletin.)

Suspended animation--this perhaps best describes the feeling of the average Arizona Federationist as he awaits the '64 N. F. B. Convention. Although this meeting will not be in the more densely populated Eastern area, this could be in favor of a large turnout. The lure of the desert southwest brings multiplied thousands of visitors to our state each year and many Federationists will be delighted to combine business and pleasure by attending the convention in Phoenix.

The convention agenda is not yet final, but it promises to be exceptionally exciting--with a distinct international flavor. One of its features will be discussions on problems of the blind throughout the world led by international blind leaders. So far countries to be represented are South Korea, Australia, Ceylon and others. Other convention features that are planned include discussions of progress and set-backs in the state affiliates' struggles against tremendous odds to improve programs for the blind; also, panels featuring key personnel and agencies for the blind in the South Western United States and Federation leaders.

The name "Arizona" is derived from an Indian word meaning "little spring" or "little water." Signs of earlier civilizations mark the valley where Phoenix now stands. Arizona is the sixth largest state in area in the union and has more National Monuments and Forests (about 20 in all) than any other state. The history of Arizona is replete with Indian lore, Spanish explorations for riches and legendary tales of gold deposits such as is told of Superstition Mountain just east of Phoenix. Over 75,000 Indians representing 14 different tribes live in Arizona. There are several Indian reservations in the state--Navajo, Apache and Papago, to mention a few. Many kinds of weather prevail in different parts. In the north there is a high broad mesa with mountain peaks soaring to over 12,000 feet altitude, where skiing is a favorite winter sport. The southern half is made up of a huge desert plain with valleys fertile enough to raise any crop where water is available.

The points of interest are so numerous and sights to see are so varied that the most versatile desires can be satisfied. Grand Canyon, the wonder of wonders, stuns the imagination and overwhelms the senses when one views it. No artist's brush could reproduce on canvas God's handiwork in the Painted Desert. The Petrified Forest (now a National Park) is utterly fantastic. Its logs and stumps of

some prehistoric age have been transformed into onyx and jasper colored stone. The Meteor Crater, the Mogollon Rim country, the home where Zane Grey wrote many of his famous novels, Oak Creek Canyon, Salt River Canyon, Montezuma Castle ruins, the pueblos, the ghost towns, the Apache trail, the old Spanish missions--all these intrigue the tourists. Then in and around Phoenix are the Heard Museum, the Arizona Art Museum, Desert Botannical Garden, the American Heritage Wax Museum, the Melvin Jones-Lions Center for the Blind and in Mesa the Morman Temple. In the hotel lobby one can arrange for tours to any of these points of interest.

Phoenix is known as the air conditioning capital of the nation. Every store both large and small, and each home, whether a mere cabin or an imposing mansion, has its cooling system.

Phoenix is served by both the Greyhound and the Continental Bus Lines, whose stations are only 2 or 3 blocks from the Westward Ho, by train service over the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe, and by several airlines--TWA, American, Western, Continental, Bonanza and others. Limousine service from the airport to the Westward Ho Hotel costs \$1.25 and runs every 45 or 50 minutes.

Note to Easterners

A reduced fare group flight from New York to Phoenix is being arranged. The round trip fare from New York is \$216.83. The plane will leave New York at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 28, and the return flight will leave Phoenix at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 4. If you wish to take advantage of this reduced fare, your check for \$216.83 must be sent to Manuel J. Rubin, 24 Pearl Street, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts, 02333, not later than May 15, 1964. We are now investigating the possibility of similar reductions from other parts of the country from which 25 or more people are coming to the convention.

The Arizona Federation has an arrangement with the Valley Transit Bus Company whereby any blind person attending the convention wearing a convention badge and using a red-tipped white cane or being led by a Seeing Eye Dog may have free transportation on city busses without having to produce a pass card as the local blind riders are expected to do. This is a courtesy all Federationists should prize.

The Westward Ho Hotel is located at 618 N. Central and also has an entrance on Fillmore Street across from the Main Post Office. Besides the Dining Room and the Coffee Shop in the hotel there is a fountain service which serves sandwiches and coffee. There is also a bar, tour service, a real estate office and a swimming pool free

to all hotel guests. Hotel rates are as follows: Single rooms, \$6.50; doubles, \$8.00; twin beds, \$10.00; rollaways (for third person in room) \$3.00. There is free auto parking for all registered guests. A large group of boy and girl scouts will be on hand as guides. The San Carlos Hotel, which gives the same rates as Westward Ho, is two long blocks straight south. Numerous other hotels, cafes and the YMCA and Central cafeterias are within a radius of three or more blocks, if one is inclined to browse about for different menus and prices. Make your reservations early as overflow guests will be channelled to the San Carlos Hotel.

The convention meetings will be in the Thunderbird Room on the main floor of the Hotel Westward Ho. The registration, information desk and exhibits will be in the Kachina Lounge, which is a foyer just off the Thunderbird Room. Registration fee will be \$2.00. Among the many exhibits will be a newly invented electronic device for reading ink print. The opening session will start at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 30, and the gavel will fall Friday, July 3, promptly at 5 p.m.

On Wednesday afternoon and evening July 1, there will be a tour to Legend City. Legend City is Arizona's version of Disneyland, depicting the wild west in its heyday. It combines the colorful past with the modern day carnival, interspersed with many free entertainment features. Tickets to Legend City (including transportation to and from) will be \$2.00. This includes one dollar's worth of rides. Tickets for more rides can be purchased on the grounds. There one can obtain either Mexican or American dinners for a dollar or slightly more. Busses will leave the hotel for Legend City at 4, 5, and 6 p.m. Beginning at 7 p.m. busses will return to the hotel on the hour until midnight.

The banquet will be on Thursday evening, July 2, at 7 p.m. Swiss steak with all the trimmings is the promised menu with only a \$3.75 price tag.

With these economy rates on hotel accommodations, tour, and banquet, surely a record attendance can be expected.

See you in Phoenix June 30. It's a date!

Attention Musicians

If you play a musical instrument and wish to contribute your services to the Entertainment Room and dance programs of the N. F. B. Convention in Phoenix, we would like to hear from you. Bring your instruments with you. We would expect drums will be provided. If interested, please write to Manuel J. Rubin, 24 Pearl Street, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02333, or contact him at the Westward Ho when you arrive.

Although we can only hope to raise funds for a portion of the costs for the people we would like to have at our convention, I urge you to be generous on an individual basis, and that chapters and state affiliates consider making a grant for this purpose. Equally important, please volunteer in the American spirit of hospitality to make your home available for up to a week or two for one of these blind leaders or for a couple. Many Americans have already enjoyed rich rewards from the people-to-people experience of sharing their homes with those from other cultures.

Dr. Grant again has shown us the way. In her last letter to me she said:

"The difficulty is, of course, one of finances. But should Ceylon, Australia, and Pakistan be represented at our Arizona conference, real progress in our goal will have been made. In order to assist these three representatives of the blind, I have offered to assist them during their stay in the U.S.A. by offering accommodations in L.A., bus fare to Arizona, bus fare to New York, and hotel expenses in Arizona and in New York. That will be my share of our efforts to have overseas blind for the first time in history attend a conference of blind persons. Anything else I see I can do I shall do it. I realize what a terrific sacrifice it is on the part of these three people to come on their own, for living standards, finances and so on are so very difficult in comparison with ours. I sincerely hope that we shall have these people come."

All of this Dr. Grant has offered out of a schoolteacher's retirement pay. Surely this is a challenge to all of us to do every bit we can. If there are any organizations, schools, or other places in your area which might be able to house our foreign convention visitors, please contact them and let us know whether they would be willing. Also, please let us know concerning courses, workshops, or opportunities to observe work for the blind in your area.

Checks should be made payable to the World Fund for the Blind and sent to Perry Sundquist, 4651 Mead Avenue, Sacramento, California 95822, who will be coordinator for this program. A form is also enclosed to indicate particulars for your offer to be a host to one of the world's blind leaders. I know that the membership of the Federation will come through as it always has when the chips are down.

AN AFFIRMATIVE REPORT ON BLIND TEACHERS

Blindness does not constitute a bar to the ability of qualified and well-trained persons to perform satisfactorily as teachers in the public schools.

This is the conclusion reached by a committee on the employment of blind persons in the teaching profession appointed by the New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind. The report, issued last year and summarized in a recent issue of *PERFORMANCE*, calls for breaking down stereotypes of resistance and erroneous attitudes toward the employment of blind teachers, particularly in view of the acute shortage of teachers in all grades throughout the nation.

In a statement of basic principles, the committee stated that the proven ability of many qualified blind teachers indicates the feasibility of expanding those employment opportunities which already exist at the college levels, where many blind persons are now teaching, to the elementary and secondary school programs.

What does it take for a blind person to be a good teacher? The report stresses the same prerequisites for any person who aspires to enter the teaching profession: the fullest possible academic background, a well adjusted and integrated personality, social and personal adjustment. In the case of blind teachers, social adjustment is directly related to skill in travel and communication. In addition, there must be a sense of dedication to the chosen profession, a true sense of humor, an ability to act responsibly in trying situations, courage, persistency, and good health.

Just as for sighted teachers, a quick imagination, a sense of personal responsibility, and an awareness of the sensitivities and problems of others are required.

Assuming that the potential blind teacher has these personal qualities and attitudes, barring him from the teaching profession solely because of his blindness represents a most serious and unjustified discrimination, the committee charged. Such persons are deprived of the opportunity to demonstrate their individual abilities and to make valuable contributions to the strengthening of the educational programs of our Nation.

The report goes on to meet every objection that might be raised: How does the blind teacher cope with discipline? Discipline follows the same route with the blind teacher that it does with the sighted

teacher: from the authority of the teacher, to group control which will, with maturity, develop into self-discipline for the class. Group control through group pressure from the students' own peer group when one is "out of line" is most effective. Group standards are to a large degree dependent on the attitudes and standards cultivated by the teacher, and in a well-conducted class where significant, meaningful teaching takes place in relation to the needs of the students, the discipline problem itself is no different for a blind teacher than for any other teacher.

How does the blind teacher handle testing? By use of braille, a blind teacher can read general test instructions and clarify any points in administering a test. Cheating on a blind teacher would obviously have great psychological exposure to censure by fellow students, but the temptation may be dampened by using sighted assistants in proctoring and grading examinations. The sighted assistants may be personally employed readers or students from a higher class. The sighted reader may read the answers with no interpretations as part of the scoring process with the blind teacher.

How does the teacher handle blackboard work? A blackboard monitor can be appointed on a weekly basis from among the most promising students, to act as the teacher's representative at the blackboard. Many blind teachers make use of previously prepared charts or diagrams to supplement their lectures. Still others have mastered writing skill on the blackboard by using fingers and hand to space their script or print on the blackboard.

Other teaching techniques are not a great deal different from those of his sighted colleagues. He will use lectures, discussion, drill, flashcards, charts, sound recordings, students' reports, films and filmstrips, except that a sighted assistant or student will probably be necessary to conduct the latter activity. Lecturing from notes is a simple technique for a blind teacher.

In keeping records and doing all the necessary clerical work expected of a teacher, the blind person may use a personally employed reader, an older student or, a wife or husband. Attendance can be kept with accuracy in braille and transferred to the register by the teacher's reader.

Should the teacher discuss his own blindness? The report answers yes. Frank and open discussion of the visual impairment should be encouraged, so that questions in the minds of the children will be satisfied. As the blind teacher gains the confidence and respect of his pupils, he will automatically gain the confidence and respect of the parents.

How about mobility? Only those persons who have acquired a high level of personal adjustment, who are able to get around the school grounds and buildings, should be considered for teaching assignments. The blind teacher should orient himself to classroom, offices, the gym, cafeteria, restrooms, etc., prior to assuming his classroom responsibilities.

How would hiring a blind teacher affect insurance costs? The employment of a blind teacher would in no way affect the rate for liability insurance to any school district. Insurance rates apply equally to all persons teaching in school districts and are not affected because of blindness.

Finally the committee replies to the question of whether it is necessary to give specific privileges to blind teachers that may not be enjoyed by other teachers. A blind teacher will not expect any special consideration from his administrators. A blind teacher, like his sighted colleagues, is expected to contribute, produce, and compete. He is aware that he cannot expect to succeed in this profession unless he enters the job sufficiently equipped and motivated to do so.

FOUNDER OF BRAILLE INSTITUTE DIES

J. Robert Atkinson, founder of the Braille Institute of America, died February 1 in Los Angeles at the age of 76. Known to thousands of blind persons throughout the country for his inventions and educational achievements, Atkinson was a onetime Montana cowboy who lost his sight at 25 as the result of a gun explosion. He founded the Braille Institute in 1919, five years after moving to Los Angeles, and was its managing director until his retirement in 1957.

During his lifetime of service to the blind, he invented the Atkinson-Braille typewriter and the process of printing braille on both sides of the page. He also translated the Bible and the English dictionary into braille.

A member of the Los Angeles Breakfast Club and the Wilshire Rotary Club, he was honored by the former organization three years ago at a special birthday ceremony. At the time of his death he was awaiting publication of a book based on his experiences, entitled Beacon in the Night. He is survived by his widow, Alberta Atkinson.

TRIBUTE TO BLIND FREEDOM AWARD WINNER

In a ceremony at noon on December 6, President Johnson presented the Presidential Merit of Freedom to a remarkable group of 31 men and women gathered in the black-draped State Dining Room of the White House. This highest civilian honor conferred by the President for service in peacetime was in recognition of their extraordinary achievements spanning a wide spectrum of human endeavor in public affairs, education, science, health, letters, and the creative and performing arts.

"No words could add to the distinction of the men and women who are being honored today," President Johnson told the bright constellation of talent assembled for the occasion. "In joining with my fellow countrymen to express the Nation's gratitude to each of you, I want particularly to thank you for reminding us that whatever evil moments may pass by, we are and we shall continue to be a people touched with greatness called by high destiny to serve great purposes."

When Miss Genevieve Caulfield stepped forward to receive her medal, the President read her citation for her unseeing eyes: "Teacher and humanitarian, she has been for four decades a one-woman Peace Corps in Southeast Asia, winning victories over darkness by helping the blind to become full members of society."

1 of 3 Women Selected

Genevieve Caulfield, one of three women selected to receive the Medal of Freedom, was born in Suffolk, Va. 75 years ago. She lost her sight in infancy through an accident, but was sustained by a philosophy that goes like this: "Being blind merely means that you cannot see. It doesn't mean you can't live a full life if you're willing to fight for it and rely with utter faith on the help of the Almighty every step of the way."

Miss Caulfield attended the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia, then went on to Trinity College in Washington and Columbia University's Teachers College. She spent 7 years in New York teaching English to Japanese businessmen and others, and by 1923 earned sufficient money to launch her vocation--teaching the blind.

Opens School in Tokyo

She opened her first school for the blind in Tokyo, then went on to establish other schools in Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines,

and other places in the Far East.

She raised funds to open Thailand's first school for the blind through a lecture tour in the United States. A religious community took over the operation of the school in 1947, leaving Miss Caulfield free to return to Tokyo where she taught for 5 years in the College of Social Work there.

As she hopscotched through the Far East, she was able to leave her other schools in charge of specially trained former pupils. For instance, a school she founded in Chiang Mai, Thailand, was placed in charge of Aurora Lee, a blind Chinese whom Miss Caulfield reared and educated after taking her off the streets of Bangkok in 1940.

In 1952 she returned to Thailand to work among the blind and to persuade Thailand to discard a law of long standing which forbids the employment of the physically handicapped. In 1956 she heeded the request of the Government of Vietnam to develop a program there for the vocational training of the blind.

She was the first American woman to receive, in 1961, the Ramon Magsaysay Award for international understanding--Asia's "Nobel Prize." Little wonder that Miss Caulfield, who now divides her time between Bangkok and Saigon, is revered and loved throughout the Far East as the "Helen Keller of Asia."

THE BENEFITS OF ICE SKATING

By Marjorie Swanson

(Editor's note: The following is excerpted from an article by Miss Swanson, a teacher of the blind in the John Hay Public School of Seattle, first published in the March 1964 issue of THE WHITE CANE, official journal of the Washington State Association of the Blind.)

The benefits from this type of activity are physical, social, and mental.

In the education of the blind we are continually working to broaden the conceptual base for these students. One of the best methods to

develop a true concept is through experience. You can talk about the "exhilaration of the cold wind blowing into your face as you skim over the ice," but there is little credence to the words as compared with the actual fact. You can give a blind student an ice skate to explore in order that he or she may feel the blade itself, the high top, the serrated front of the blade. However, the actual lacing of the high top shoe, the learning to stand erect on this thin blade, and the use of the serrated front portion of the blade in figure skating are concepts which will give permanent understanding through experience.

The physical skills we hope to develop through this activity are balance, direction (orientation), relaxation of extreme rigidity, leg muscle development, and posture. The blind student in the regular school day has a great deal more mental exercise than physical. The recesses and lunch hour are not as active as for the sighted students who run and jump, play ball, etc. Day's end finds a mentally-fatigued child who has difficulty getting to sleep at night because he is not physically fatigued.

The social gains are mostly in the future. When this skill is learned, the blind student will be able to participate with sighted neighborhood friends on ice-skating parties. The blind student will be able to talk intelligently and enthusiastically on skating with sighted people. There is bound to be a better understanding of ice-hockey telecasts. The blind skater will be able, as a parent someday, to share this sport with his family.

From our experience I would recommend this adventure. As one skater says: "We have met a great many wonderful people. They, in turn, have met us. We hope and believe these people know we are as normal as sighted skaters in our problems and gains."

BROTHERS . . . & OTHERS

Massachusetts Hails New Chapter. "A new addition to a family is generally referred to as a 'blessed event' and is cause for general rejoicing--and that's what the Associated Blind of Massachusetts are doing right now," according to Rosamond Critchley, our diligent correspondent from the New England state. The Associated Blind of Watertown, having applied for membership at the ABM executive committee meeting January 25, was unanimously admitted and welcomed.

Organized in mid-November, the Watertown chapter had 15 members at the time of its affiliation under the presidential leadership of Edward Connelly. The Watertown association is the second to be admitted in recent months; at the 1963 convention of the statewide group last October, the Greenfield-Athol Association of the Blind joined the ranks as a new member.

* * * * *

Nebraskans Re-elect Swager. Jack Swager was elected to his seventh two-year term as president of the Omaha Association of the Blind at its January 15 meeting, along with the following officers: Henry Vetter, first vice president; Mrs. Frances Rezek, second vice president; Mrs. Betty Grunow, recording secretary; Mrs. Ana McGrew, treasurer, and Marilyn Walter, corresponding secretary.

Maxine Pugh writes from Omaha that the state's white cane law has been inserted into the Driver's Manual and printed in the telephone directory. Nebraska's Governor Morrison was among those state executives who had the good sense last year to declare October 16 as official White Cane Safety Day.

* * * * *

"Come Into the Kitchen." During the summer months of 1963, writes our Colorado correspondent Ethel Mahaney, an unusual project was undertaken in Denver. It began when Thais Lampe, state supervisor of home teachers, attended a meeting of the Parents of Blind Children. At that meeting it was disclosed that six teen-age blind girls, all attending public schools, had not been admitted to the cooking classes in their schools.

When Thais became aware of their problem, and of the distress of the girls' mothers, she decided to do something about it. Soliciting the help of Dianne McGeorge, a totally blind housewife who is an expert in the cuisine department, she worked out a plan for private instructions--to be held in the kitchens of two of the mothers.

The six girls, ranging in age from 14 to 17, were eager students. They were taught to fry meat, to measure flour, to break eggs and to assemble salads. Both Thais and Dianne report that their six-week course was most successful as a first step--and all now hope that a

more advanced course in the culinary arts can be arranged for next summer.

* * * * *

Jernigan to Address Employment Conference. Kenneth Jernigan, director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind and first vice president of the National Federation of the Blind, will be a major speaker at the Regional Conference of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped to be held May 22 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Other speakers on the program will be Harold Russell, former National Commander of the Disabled Veterans, and Louis Levine, director of the U.S. Employment Service.

* * * * *

Schedule of Coming Conventions. Here is a partial list of noteworthy conventions slated for the coming months:

The Virginia Federation of the Blind meets April 24 through 26 at the George Mason Hotel in Alexandria, under auspices of the host Potomac Federation.

The Iowa Association of the Blind will gather in Vinton June 5 through June 7.

The American Association of Instructors of the Blind stages its biennial convention at the Perkins School, Watertown, Massachusetts, June 21 to 25.

The American Association of Workers for the Blind plans its convention for New York's Statler-Hilton Hotel, July 27 to 31.

The National Church Conference of the Blind will meet at the Severin Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 27 to 30.

The World Council for the Welfare of the Blind announces its third quinquennial convention for the Hotel Statler-Hilton and the U.S. Building, New York City, July 31 to August 12.

* * * * *

Iowa Officials Found Fired Up. "Sirens whined, fire trucks roared, and smoke poured up from the roof of the Iowa Commission for the Blind Friday night," reported the Waterloo COURIER in a recent article. "There was a sound of breaking glass as firemen burst through a door to gain entry to the building, and the pounding of boots on stairs as they raced up seven flights.

"The fire fighters broke down a fire door to reach the roof and found three officials of the Commission barbecuing steaks in a fire-proof area on the sundeck. The smoke came from the damp hickory chips they were using.

"Kenneth Jernigan, Commission director, said the firemen asked if there were enough steaks for them, too. Jernigan's guests were his administrative assistant, James Valliant, and Manuel Urena, program supervisor of the Orientation Center."

* * * * *

Invention Aids Blind in Writing. The "Scott Writing Guide," an invention of George Scott of Trenton, New Jersey, was recently tested with favorable results by members of the Trenton Association of the Blind, according to a news report in the TRENTON EVENING TIMES. Designed to meet the needs of blind persons who enjoy writing their own letters, the guide reportedly has two distinctive features. It automatically spaces lines on standard stationery and there is a special provision for below-the-line letters. The writer executes each line in a framed space, shaped like the opening of a small mail box. When a "g" or similar letter is needed, slight pressure on a lever lowers the guide, which then springs back to its regular position. The device was introduced to the Trenton group by Association President Robert Owens.

* * * * *

Hadley Offers Rehab Course. The Hadley School for the Blind announces that enrollments are being accepted for a new course, "Introduction to Rehabilitation," to be taught by Robert McQuie, holder of a master's degree in guidance. The text is Dr. Herbert Rusalem's Rehabilitation of the Blind. The course is of an introductory nature and will be followed by others more specialized. It is said to be designed to acquaint the blind person with every service and

resource available to him and to encourage the grasping of opportunities open to him despite his handicap by acquiring new skills, information and training. Braille, the guide dog, and the use of the cane are among the topics to be explored. The Hadley School is located at 700 Elm Street, Winnetka, Illinois.

* * * * *

Library of Congress Expands. The Division for the Blind of the Library of Congress is "steadily increasing the number and quality of its services," according to an announcement by Robert S. Bray, Division chief. He notes that a substantial collection of braille musical scores and texts has recently been acquired through the cooperation of various institutions including London's Royal National Institute for the Blind. JACK AND JILL, the popular magazine for youngsters, is now available on talking book records beginning with the January 1964 issue, in addition to the continuing braille edition. A journal called TAPE RECORDING, the only American magazine on the subject, has been available in tape-recorded form for some months and may be borrowed by any blind person either directly from the Division for the Blind or from any of the Regional Libraries for the Blind which circulate magnetic tape.

* * * * *

Welfare Project Reduces Snooping. A promising new way to reduce investigations and invasions of client privacy by social workers is suggested by a public welfare demonstration project currently underway in West Virginia. Sponsored jointly by the State Department of Welfare and the Federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the project involves the use of a self-administered questionnaire to verify continuing eligibility for old-age assistance--an approach which might result, says an official HEW release, "in a savings of staff time." The potential savings to the client in dignity and privacy may be surmised from the Department's explanation that "under present procedures, a public welfare worker must periodically talk with the old-age assistance recipient, either in the office or at the recipient's home, to determine whether there has been any change in the recipient's financial status since the last interview."

* * * * *

ID Cards for Illinois Clients. Director Harold O. Swank of the Illinois Public Aid Department has announced that identification cards will be issued to recipients of public aid to the blind, aged, dependent children and disabled in the state. He said the ID cards are the first in a series of revisions of public aid procedures relating to medical services. Under the system, aid recipients are required to present the card to a pharmacist or physician when requesting drugs or treatment. Swank expressed belief that the cards will expedite processing and payment of bills and, to a large extent, eliminate the possibility of fraud.

* * * * *

Summer School and Camp for Blind Youth. A special summer school and camping program for intellectually gifted blind youth between the ages of 14 and 20 will be offered by the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind for the summer session of July and August this year. Forty blind youths will be chosen from the U.S. and Canada to participate in the unique program. Information and applications may be obtained from the Principal of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind, 999 Pelham Parkway, Bronx, New York 10469.

* * * * *

Tells Colors by Touch. We are indebted to THE LEADER, the outstanding journal of the Associated Blind of New Jersey, for the strange account of a Flint, Michigan woman who is not blind but spends a lot of time blindfolded for doctors. Mrs. Patricia Stanley is somehow able to tell colors by touch. Her amazing faculty reportedly has doctors speculating about the possibility of blind persons learning to read large print by touch.

If her secret can be learned, the doctors believe there is a chance that blind persons could be taught to read large, color-printed letters by touch, as braille is now read. Mrs. Stanley has been subjected to close observation and those who have watched her are convinced she is not tricking them. The odds against her guessing the colors correctly as often as she has identified the colors are quoted at one in 10,000.

* * * * *

Capps Joins Governor's Committee. Donald C. Capps, second vice president of the National Federation of the Blind and president of South Carolina's Aurora Club for the Blind, has been appointed by Governor Donald Russell to serve as a member of the S.C. Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. Among his many other activities on behalf of the blind Capps is editor of the PALMETTO AURORAN, a quarterly publication of the Aurora Club.

* * * * *

Denverites Buy Braille Writers. Funds for the purchase of four braille writers were authorized at a January meeting of the Denver Area Association of the Blind as a means of encouraging the work of community groups engaged in volunteer braille transcribing. Two of the writers will be loaned indefinitely to the Denver Red Cross and to the Sisterhood of Temple Emmanuel, two groups whose volunteer services have been especially outstanding. Of the remaining two machines one will be retained for the use of Association members, and one is to be sold to a blind member with active writing interests.

* * * * *

Michigan Aid Increase Seen. A proposal to increase the maximum monthly benefit from \$80 to \$90 for recipients of aid to the blind, along with old-age and disabled aid recipients, was included by Governor George Romney of Michigan in a recent special message to the state legislature. The governor said the increase would cost the state \$974,000 while saving local units of government \$382,000.

* * * * *

"Eyeball Network" Saves Sight. Cherryl Lynn Hammons of Antlers, Oklahoma, was only two years old when she accidentally burned the cornea of one eye on her daddy's cigarette, according to an item in THE LEADER (published by the Associated Blind of New Jersey). A new cornea was needed immediately; but when eye banks in the area were contacted, no corneas were available for use in the child's case.

Cherryl Lynn is three now, and she can see--thanks to the

"Eyeball Network" and a 90-year-old man's eye. The Eyeball Network is an organization of "ham" radio operators covering 16 states. Their purpose is to locate corneas for surgical transplant. It was Travis Harris, a network member in Oklahoma City, who flashed the word of Cherryl Lynn's plight. And the word was picked up in Chicago, where a 90-year-old man who had pledged his eyes to the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness had died.

The precious cargo was flown to Oklahoma City--and now a little girl looks at the world through a 90-year-old "window."

* * * * *

Workshop for Arts Teacher. A workshop program for industrial arts teachers of the blind will be held from June 29 to August 7 this year at State University College, Oswego, New York. Jointly sponsored by the Vocational Rehabilitation Association, the American Foundation for the Blind and the American Association of Workers for the Blind, the workshop program is designed to provide the industrial arts teacher who is working with blind students an opportunity to increase his technical competence and understanding and to gain a better insight and appreciation of approved methods and techniques of providing industrial arts activities for blind students. Information may be obtained from Dr. James R. Hastings, State University College, Oswego, New York.

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

INKPRINT EDITION

VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



The National Federation of the Blind is not an organization speaking for the blind--it is the blind speaking for themselves

N. F. B. Headquarters
2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, Calif.

AUGUST ISSUE - - - 1964

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

Published monthly in braille and distributed free to the blind by the National Federation of the Blind, President Russell Kletzing, 2341 Cortez Lane, Sacramento 25, California.

Inkprint edition produced and distributed by the National Federation of the Blind, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

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AUGUST 1964

THE REVIVAL OF THE BRAILLE MONITOR

The revival of the BRAILLE MONITOR comes in the nick of time. The last issue was published in December, 1960. The suspension was caused by the dearth of finances which resulted from the internal warfare of the Federation. During the spring of 1961 the American Brotherhood for the Blind received a handsome bequest. The Brotherhood, therefore, was able to take over where the MONITOR had left off. In August, 1961 the Brotherhood began the publication of the BLIND AMERICAN, in form and content the replacement of the MONITOR. These and other heavy drains on the treasury of the Brotherhood, alas, are now exhausting its reserves. It had already reduced to a quarterly issue and will now suspend altogether. The announcement of President Kletzing at the NFB Phoenix convention that the income of the Federation would now permit the revival of the BRAILLE MONITOR thus could not have come at a more opportune moment.

The announcement is important in more than a fiscal sense. As the MONITOR suspended at the peak of dissension within the Federation, so it revives with the restoration of harmony, good feeling and mutual understanding. May the MONITOR and these attributes of the Federation continue to reign together.

The MONITOR, braille and inkprint, will automatically be sent to all those who are on the BLIND AMERICAN mailing list. In addition it will be sent to the more than one hundred who are on the BLIND AMERICAN braille waiting list.

As was our practice in earlier days, separate Federation bulletins will now be held to an absolute minimum. Instead their contents will be published in the BRAILLE MONITOR. In a short time all those on the Federation bulletin list who are not receiving the braille edition of the MONITOR will receive a letter asking whether they wish to be placed upon the list for the inkprint edition.

I will serve as acting editor of the MONITOR. Floyd Matson will be assistant editor. It is hoped, at least by me, that the tenure of the acting editor will be short and his assignment temporary.

The Federation has created a national committee of correspondents consisting of at least one member from each state. The committeemen will send news of local personalities and developments of interest to NFB readers. This committee has been in operation for a year and has been doing a fine job. Its existence however should not in any way discourage the rest of our readers from sending in appropriate items and feature stories. If these are not published as separate articles with a credit line, they will at least be reflected within the Monitor Miniatures.

Articles which are not signed or the source of which is not indicated are the work of one or the other or both of the editors.

Jacobus tenBroek

NFB CONVENTION ROUNDUP

By Jacobus tenBroek

People began arriving on Saturday; a good number were on hand by Sunday, and we practically required an auditorium for the executive committee meeting on Monday. This was true though the official sessions of the 1964 NFB convention held in Phoenix, Arizona, ran from Tuesday through Friday, June 30 through July 3. The hotel reported that almost nobody checked out on Friday night after the convention, preferring to linger through Saturday for visits about the community and a last day with old friends. From the first small gatherings on Saturday and the larger ones on Sunday, a buzz of excitement and cordiality was obvious to the most casual observer. The atmosphere from beginning to end was delightfully harmonious. We shall here report the content of the convention, though we cannot transmit the spirit.

Program-wise, in addition to a number of substantial and significant papers and panels, we had a whole day of presentations from fifteen visitors representing eight foreign countries. A world organization of the blind was almost invariably an expressed hope and recurrent theme.

A vital element in the success of the convention consisted of the convention arrangements and social activities. The first were worked out on the national level under the expert hand of Ken Jernigan as convention chairman and at the state level by the able and indefatigable efforts of the host affiliate, the Arizona Federation of the Blind. Plans were set on foot many months before the convention and executed in detail to the pleasure and satisfaction of delegates and guests. The evening of fun and frolic at Legend City, the Disneyland of the Southwest, was enjoyed by young and old, native and foreigner alike.

NFB Recognition

The large number of telegrams and letters received from congressmen, senators, and prominent administration officials were more than formal messages and greetings: they demonstrated the recognition given the organization and acknowledged its activities and accomplishments. Messages were received from Speaker of the House John McCormack (Massachusetts); Majority Leader of the House, Carl Albert

(Oklahoma); and Congressman Walter S. Baring (Nevada); from Senators Mike Mansfield (Montana), Majority Leader; Everett Dirksen (Illinois), Minority Leader; Jennings Randolph (West Virginia); Vance Hartke (Indiana); Hubert Humphrey (Minnesota); Wallace Bennett (Utah); Howard Cannon (Nevada); Ed Mechem (New Mexico); Peter Dominick (Colorado); Joseph Clark (Pennsylvania); Alan Bible (Nevada); Clair Engle (California); Eugene McCarthy (Minnesota); from W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor; Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; and from George Meany, President AFL-CIO. President Lyndon B. Johnson wired as follows: "I am pleased to send hearty greetings to all who participate in the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind. Handicapped men and women have long demonstrated their worth to our society as productive members of the labor force and as valued contributors to community life. My best wishes for a fruitful meeting and for continued success in helping the blind help themselves."

Elections

In recognition of the job done by President Kletzing and the other officers, the 36-man nominating committee under the chairmanship of Bob Whitehead of Kentucky recommended and the convention unanimously endorsed the re-election of the entire slate of officers for another two-year term: President--Russell Kletzing, California; First Vice President--Kenneth Jernigan, Iowa; Second Vice President--Donald Capps, South Carolina; Secretary--Eulasee Hardenbergh, Alabama; Treasurer--Franklin VanVliet, New Hampshire. Audrey Bascom Tait, Nevada, William Hogan, Connecticut, and Perry Sundquist, California, were returned to the executive committee, and James Fall of Arizona was elected to fill the seat vacated by Stanley Oliver of Michigan. In addition, the convention unanimously confirmed the action taken by the executive committee in reappointing to the board of directors Dr. Isabelle Grant, Dr. Jacob Freid, and Lyle von Erichsen.

1966 Convention City

A brisk contest developed over the 1966 convention city. Minnesota, sponsoring the Twin Cities, was first in the field, having begun a campaign following the meeting of the United Blind of Minnesota on the weekend of June 6. Delegates were buttonholed, banners and emblems displayed. Kentucky put Louisville in the field during the roll call on the first day of the convention. Later California submitted the City of Los Angeles. On the vote the Twin Cities were eliminated first, and Louisville prevailed over Los Angeles by one vote. So the 1966 convention city is Louisville, Kentucky. By convention action, Washington D.C. was reconfirmed for 1965, at the Mayflower Hotel, July 6 to July 9.

Federationism in Action

The ongoing activities and policies of the Federation were reflected in a series of reports made by officers of the Federation and state affiliates. Collectively these reveal Federationism in thought and action and tell a story of organizational methods, trials, and progress.

Russell Kletzing's presidential report was divided into two parts: one, delivered on the first day, informally recapitulated the steps taken in carrying out the programs of the organization and conducting its work week by week; the other, a formal statement delivered on the last day, reviewing principal policies of the organization and constituting in effect a message on the state of the union. Six major topics were discussed: (1) the goal of proper education and effective orientation of blind people; (2) the aim of educating and informing the wider public with respect to the abilities and potential of the blind; (3) the theme of public assistance--of aid to the blind under social security--involving its redirection along the paths of rehabilitation and vocational opportunity; (4) the goal of full employment of all adult blind persons of productive age, and normal competitive employment; (5) the challenge of our relationships with the agencies, both public and private; (6) the principle of organized, concerted activity of blind people, by blind people, for blind people. In view of the character and importance of this address, it will be published in full in the next issue of the BRAILLE MONITOR.

Six reports by leaders of state affiliates told of the encounter of the organized blind with a full range of problems and recounted successes and failures.

The story of the effort to improve public assistance in Alabama was told by Rogers Smith. The effort has been capped with remarkable success. The blind aid grant in Alabama was below both the national average for the blind and state payments to the aged. Under new legislation there has been a fourteen-dollar increase in average payments and a provision for special needs. The legislation drafted by the officers of the N. F. B. and lobbied through the Alabama legislature by Rogers Smith as chairman of the legislative committee of the Alabama Federation and by other Alabamans, was enacted over the opposition of state and national welfare officials.

The organized blind of New Mexico have been seeking to establish an orientation center for the blind of that state. The efforts are not yet crowned with success, but progress has been made, again over the opposition of state officials. Legislative hearings have been held,

reports prepared and considered and interest by the Governor stimulated. These events were described by Pauline Gomez, president of the New Mexico Federation of the Blind.

In South Carolina the battle of the blind on many fronts has continued. Additional federal funds have been secured for state blind aid recipients and the set-aside in the vending stand program has been abolished--two solid achievements related by Don Capps on behalf of the South Carolina Aurora Club.

The account of his organization's relationship with a private agency in his state was presented by Manuel Rubin of Massachusetts. The private agency has received a federal grant of \$140,000 for a project intended to teach social agencies in Greater Boston how to incorporate the blind within agencies granting general health and welfare services. The project is thus aimed to prove a theory long disproved by the experience of the blind, namely, that the blind can be served as well when lumped and scrambled with other groups as they can when separately provided for by persons who understand their particular problems.

Nancy Smalley and Beverly Gladden of California described the current campaign of the California Council of the Blind to open up the public schools in Los Angeles County to blind teachers; the great legislative accomplishments in abolishing length of residence and bringing about other improvements in provisions with respect to public assistance; and the disastrous administrative changes in the welfare department and in the establishment of a new department of rehabilitation.

Increasingly, blind persons are being excluded from the profession of chiropractic by reason of the refusal of the chiropractic schools to admit them for training. This refusal is based in part on the increasing professionalization of chiropractic which as in all fields seems to begin with attempts to exclude the blind. It is also based on the view of some school officials that blind persons cannot perform all of the techniques used in the practice of chiropractic and cannot secure full advantage of training because of increased emphasis on visual aids. In an attempt to reverse this trend and to reopen the chiropractic profession to qualified blind persons, Kenneth Jernigan, director of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, and the blind chiropractors of Iowa held a meeting in Des Moines June 21 to organize a campaign. Press releases were issued, the national chiropractic school accrediting agency contacted, and a representative sent to a meeting of the chiropractic association held in Denver beginning June 28. These developments were fully reported upon by Kenneth Jernigan at the NFB convention and culminated in the adoption of a resolution directing the officers of the Federation to request the national chiropractic accreditation

committee to establish standards prohibiting discriminatory admission policies. If need be, the officers were directed to attempt to secure federal legislation. Some years ago California, by popular referendum, adopted legislation forbidding chiropractic schools in that state to exclude qualified blind persons from training and certification.

John Nagle, Chief of the Washington Office, presented another of his comprehensive and sprightly accounts of Washington activities. He reported upon his numerous appearances before Congressional committees, his dealings with administrative agencies and tribunals, the state of the common legislative front with the AAWB, the BVA, and the Foundation, and his service to the various state affiliates. He focused attention particularly upon the Federation's effort to secure minimum wage legislation for workers in sheltered shops which, despite overwhelming opposition by shop managers and agencies operating shops, has made truly significant progress in the House.

Kenneth Jernigan's report as chairman of the subcommittee on budget and finance showed a significant improvement in Federation income and the likelihood of stabilization at present levels. In his White Cane Week report, John Taylor said that sixteen states had participated with a net increment to the Federation of somewhat under \$10,000 including \$2,500 from a national direct mailing. Massachusetts led the list with a Federation share of \$1,600; California was second with \$1,500.

Panels and Speeches

Two lively panels and ten speeches on assorted topics added to the substance and diversity of the program. One of the panels, that on Medicare, was chaired by John Taylor with his usual aplomb. Perry Sundquist, in a careful analysis, demonstrated the need for social insurance medical and hospital care programs and the inadequacy of the Kerr-Mills Act, especially with respect to needy blind people. Dr. W. R. Brown, Regional Medical Consultant, Department of HEW, largely confined his appearance to the presentation of statistical data. Dr. D. Dermont Melick, past president of the Maricopa County Medical Society, Arizona, made a spirited defense of the position of the American Medical Association. He was roundly peppered with questions and comments from the audience. The sentiments of the Federation were later embodied in a resolution fully supporting the medicare program and proposing to enlarge it.

The other panel, that on the relationship of public assistance

and rehabilitation to employment, was chaired by Professor tenBroek, and produced a pyrotechnique display over client freedom of choice in the rehabilitation program and the character of services in rehabilitation and public assistance. M. W. Holdship, State Director, Vocational Rehabilitation in Arizona, stoutly defended the standard rehabilitation position of his agency. He was caught in a withering crossfire between Professor tenBroek and Kenneth Jernigan and virtually inundated by audience reaction. Mrs. Christina F. Small, Director, Division of Family Services, Department of Public Welfare, Arizona, defended the propriety of placing non-vocational rehabilitation services in the welfare department. John Ruiz, Chief, Bureau of Services to the Blind, Division of Welfare, Nevada, took a middle ground.

The speeches were characterized by variety of topic and treatment. John L. Granger of the Alabama Institute of the Deaf and Blind spoke about the sheltered shops without delving into controversial issues. Ralph W. Middleton, totally blind, discussed his work as a computer programmer at the U. S. Naval Ordinance Test Station, China Lake, California. Clifford E. Jensen, president of the Colorado Federation of the Blind, outlined public relations methods of getting our blind organizational story across and described the preparation of his state's brochure. George Buchanan, Assistant to the Vice President of the Air Transport Association, convincingly presented the range of special services offered by the airlines to travelers of all sorts including the blind. Lou Rives, Chief of the Division of Services for the Blind in O. V. R., dwelt upon current developments and opportunities in rehabilitation and employment. Anita O'Shea, past president of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, offered some interesting thoughts on better state conventions. James Garfield, secretary, California Council of the Blind described his radio program "A Blind Man Looks at You" broadcast over a Los Angeles station for the past fifteen years. Tim Seward, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Baring and a long-time friend of the blind, gave some helpful hints on the ways in which constituents might influence their congressmen. Assistant Attorney General Vanlandingham, a graduate of the Kansas State School for the Blind and Washburn Law School, spoke of his twenty years at the Bar and in public office in Arizona and his current campaign for the Attorney Generalship of the state. Al Bendich, a sighted attorney from Berkeley, California, analyzed the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution in connection with night raids on welfare recipients. He concluded that such night raids violate the Constitution when conducted without a search warrant issued on probable cause. He therefore held illegal the action of the welfare department in Alameda County, California, in firing Benny Parrish, a blind social worker, for refusing to go on a night raid. He is serving as Parrish's attorney in a law suit that is about to enter the appellate courts. The

Alameda County Court sustained the dismissal action. Bendich is serving without fee, but contributions to meet court costs and other expenses may be sent to the Benny Parrish Constitutional Rights Fund, P. O. Box 264, Berkeley, California.

Committee and Group Meetings

Following its usual practice, the executive committee met both before and after the convention to confirm convention arrangements and wind up details. Both meetings were open to the public and were widely attended by delegates and visitors. Two other large committee meetings were held on Wednesday afternoon--the membership committee, chaired by Stanley Oliver, Michigan, which discussed methods of bringing new people into the Federation and expressed great interest in developing a short brochure describing the Federation and its activities; and the committee of correspondants, chaired by Professor tenBroek, California, which organized methods of increasing the flow of information to the BLIND AMERICAN and the BRAILLE MONITOR. Two other groups, under the wing of the Federation, were also convened: the Vending Stand Operators, under the chairmanship of Maxine Pugh, Nebraska, and the Blind Teachers, chaired by Dr. Grant. A well-attended, nonsectarian devotional was held each morning for forty-five minutes before the opening session under the dual chairmanship of Franklin VanVliet and Don Capps.

Resolutions

Many of the policies of the NFB were newly determined or expressly reaffirmed in resolutions, passed in the regular business sessions of the organization. Copies of these resolutions may be secured by writing to the Sacramento headquarters of the NFB. A summary is included elsewhere in this issue.

The World Picture and a World Federation of the Blind

Mark Thursday, July 2, 1964 on your calendar. It was an outstanding day in one of the best NFB conventions in years. But it was far more than that. It was the culmination of a great deal of preparatory work, a day of substance and accomplishment in itself, and a day that contained undoubted implications for the future in terms of the welfare of the blind of the world.

On that day fifteen international visitors from eight countries gathered with the blind of America in convention assembled in Phoenix, Arizona. The visitors arrived after the NFB two years earlier at its Detroit convention had adopted a resolution sponsoring the creation of a world federation of the blind, after Isabelle Grant had spent several years in world travel particularly in the Far East and in Pakistan,

after years of experience with the inadequacies of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, after a series of events of an undemocratic, inequitable, and exclusionary character by the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, after world-wide distribution of Professor tenBroek's "Whither the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind?" delivered at the 1963 NFB convention analyzing the inadequacies of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind and reviewing the need for world organization of the blind themselves, and after world-wide correspondence by NFB officers. The visitors came to Phoenix with varying points of view on programs for the blind, from countries with widely divergent needs of the blind, and in different stages of readiness for world organization of the blind. To a man, however, they recognized the need for organization of the blind themselves on a world basis, the necessary major features of such an organization, the common aspirations of the blind everywhere for independence and integration, the common goals to be achieved by organization, and the common functions to be performed.

For the entire day of Thursday, July 2, the international visitors presented, one by one, the history and conditions of the blind in their respective countries, such programs as exist to aid them and the degree, if any, of self organization. Mark their names well; many of them you will hear often in the future: India with its more than two million blind, only a handful of whom have opportunity commensurate with their capacities, and where an organization of the blind already exists--represented by Dr. Rajendra T. Vyas, Development Officer, Blind Men's Association, Bombay, and Mr. Suresh C. Ahuja, Executive Officer, National Association for the Blind, Bombay. Malaysia, newly sprung into nationhood, and with it a small organization of blind people in Kuala Lumpur, created in the face of incredible difficulty--represented by Mr. Lee Ah Kow, President of the Selangor Society of the Blind. South Korea, still in chaos and poverty, where the hope of the blind and their self-organization have hardly yet emerged--represented by Miss Hee Yong Yang, Secretary and Proofreader, Braille Library, Seoul, and Won Chan Lowe, sighted Executive Secretary, Advisory Committee, International Aid to the Blind, Seoul. Pakistan, bursting into life under the impact of Isabelle Grant's indomitable personality and the keen potential of its own blind people--represented by Dr. Fatima Shah, of the Pakistan Association of the Blind, Pakistan, whose travels to the convention are an odyssey in their own right. Japan, with its centuries of blind organization, their limited integration into the common callings of the community, and their virtual monopoly on massage and physiotherapy--represented by Dr. Tokisuke Kusajima, Zeshigoya Branch, Tokyo University of Education, sighted. Ceylon, where agencies for the blind are associated with earlier English colonialism, where the blind have organized themselves and enjoy extraordinary fortune in their leadership and where the masses of the blind still must find their way out of isolation and rejection--represented by Mr. Rienzi Alagiyawanna, President, Ceylon Association of the Blind,

Principal, Sivrāja School for the Deaf and Blind, Mahawewa, Ceylon. Australia, which is much more comparable to the United States than the other countries mentioned, what with its common language, common background, similar constitutional government, and relatively advanced stage of blind organization--represented by Mr. Hugh Jeffrey, President, Australia Guild of Business and Professional Blind, Chairman, Australian Federation of Organisations of the Blind, Victoria, and Timothy Fuery, member Executive Council, Queensland Musical, Literary and Self-Aid Society for the Blind.

At the end of the morning session Dr. Jacob Freid summarized, pulled together the common strands, and wove them into a pattern of history. Marilyn Brandt, returning to this country after fifteen months of Peace Corps work in the Dominican Republic, spoke about the condition of the blind in that country. Some, who could not come, sent papers-- B. P. Chanda, Principal, Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, The Blind Boys' Academy, West Bengali, India (paper read by Alfred Gil, California); Mr. Jagdish Patel, Blind Men's Association, Ahmedabad, India (paper read by Victor Johnson, Missouri); S. T. Dajani, Principal, 'Ala-ya School for the Blind, Jordan (paper read by Clarice Arnold, Maryland); Rogerio Lagman, President, General Assembly of the Blind, Inc., Philippines (paper read by Vernon Butler, D.C.); and Miss Lucy Ching of the Blind Welfare Center, Hong Kong (paper read by Rosamond Kritchley, Massachusetts). With unerring appropriateness, indeed with a certain inevitability, Isabelle Grant concluded the day of the World View with her own unique brand of Scotch wit and inspiration.

The banquet Thursday evening was planned as a capstone to the day-long international program. Presided over by Kenneth Jernigan as master of ceremonies, and with central roles played by President Kletzing, Dr. Grant and Dr. tenBroek, it fulfilled its function admirably. The ceremonies and speeches were moving in spirit, exalted in aspiration, profound in content. The Newel Perry Award, the highest honor which the blind of the Federation can bestow, was conferred on Dr. Grant in an elegant speech by President Kletzing for her distinguished contribution to the blind of the world. Dr. Grant responded in kind. In his address Professor tenBroek analyzed and reformulated the concept of self-organization among the blind, dwelt upon its feasibility as a universal principle though its evolution in this country had in part been shaped by peculiarly American conditions, and put the full force of his leadership behind the creation of a world federation of the blind.

Following the banquet, as the night grew late, the international visitors and leaders of the NFB met to lay the cornerstone of the world organization. Some of the visitors lacked authority from their organizations to act. Others had secured direction before leaving home. Then and there, an organization was formed. As to those who were authorized, it

constituted an incipient world organization of the blind. As to some of those not authorized, it constituted a committee of which they were personal members. As to some others, it constituted a concrete proposal which they would refer to their organizations for action. Professor tenBroek was chosen as interim chairman. The meeting adjourned in the wee hours of the morning of July 3 with the understanding and firm resolve that the members would meet in New York further to advance the work. All present departed with a sense of common cause and of history.

THOUGH BLIND, A MAN OF VISION

(From the Kansas City Times, July 6, 1964.)

Rienzi Alagiyawanna, 48, of Colombo, Ceylon, is pleased with his first trip around the world and his first visit to America.

For the 140 children who attend the Sivrāja School for the Blind in Colombo, of which he is principal; for the 10,000 blind persons of Ceylon, and for the more than 14 million persons throughout the world who, like himself, are also blind, he seeks independence, education and dignity.

And so Alagiyawanna, who is president of the Ceylon Federation of the Blind, undertook correspondence six months ago with Dr. Jacobus tenBroek of Berkeley, Calif., president emeritus of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) and discussed with him the possibility of establishing a World Federation of the Blind (WFB).

"Under the leadership of Dr. tenBroek, the World Federation of the Blind became a reality last week at the annual NFB convention in Phoenix, Ariz.," Alagiyawanna said yesterday. He is a house guest this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Rittgers, who also are blind. Rittgers is president of the Progressive Blind of Missouri, Inc., the Missouri chapter of the NFB.

"Progressive blind persons throughout the world will be able to attack their problems more aggressively when the WFB becomes

organized on a worldwide scale," Alagiyawanna said. "Blind persons in Ceylon, in the United States--everywhere--face the same major problem: educational and employment opportunities so that they may live as individuals, not as charitable wards of the state."

Alagiyawanna speaks English fluently. He was educated at a Catholic French missionary college in Ceylon and teaches English and Sinhalese, the native language of Ceylon, in his school.

"About 3,000 of the blind persons of Ceylon are of school age, but there are facilities for only a third of them," Alagiyawanna said. "That third will be able to live, not well, but at least independently. The remainder will be burdens on their families all their lives."

"In my own school we could teach twice as many students. But why bring in more students when we have only two dozen Braille books in the Sinhalese language," he said. "Each teacher must painstakingly make his own books by hand."

Alagiyawanna said he believed federations of the blind in many underdeveloped countries also were unable to educate most of their blind.

"I am very impressed by the way many schools in this country integrate blind children into regular schools," Alagiyawanna said. "If we could do that in Ceylon, we would not have to provide expensive resident schools such as mine."

Alagiyawanna will attend the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind July 30 to August 12, in New York. The high point of the trip will be his arrival in West Berlin, where he plans to marry a German nurse whom he met there in 1957 while attending a training college for teachers of the blind.

"A blind person must learn everything by doing things for himself," Alagiyawanna said. "We have no wheat in Ceylon and I ate my first wheat cakes this morning on the train. Tomorrow I am going to a grain elevator and learn how it operates."

"I also want to learn how an automatic washing machine works," he said with a smile, "so I am going to wash my own clothes in one."

THE PARLIAMENT OF MAN . . . THE FEDERATION OF THE WORLD

By Professor Jacobus tenBroek

(An Address delivered at the Banquet of the Annual Convention of the National Federation of the Blind, Phoenix, Arizona, July 2, 1964.)

One score and four years ago, a little group of willful men from fewer than thirteen states met in a convention hall in Pennsylvania in order to form a more perfect union. If you find an historic analogy in that, so be it.

The union we formed on that distant day in Wilkes-Barre was far from perfect. It is imperfect still. But it has met the test of time and turmoil, trouble and tribulation; it has not perished from the earth.

The National Federation of the Blind is still standing--but it is not standing still. It is on the move once more, as it was in its first years of wrath and rebellion--more united than ever and more confident of its power, stronger in its faith and richer by its experience--an older movement and a wiser one, now revitalized and recharged by an astonishing vision, an idea even more fantastic than that which lured the handful of founders to the Pennsylvania cradle of federationism.

The vision which moves us now is nothing less than the image of world federation. I propose to you tonight that a new and grand objective be added to our established goals and purposes: namely, the inauguration of a World Federation of the Blind.

And why not? Our own National Federation has blazed the trail and shown the way. We have demonstrated what blind men and women can do in freedom and in concert, through independence and interdependence. We have proved, in the fires of battle, our right to organize, to speak for ourselves, and to be heard. We have established beyond gainsaying our capacity to take the leadership in our own cause. We have slowly and steadily won recognition in the halls of government, in the agencies of welfare, and in the public mind. Through our deeds and programs, by argument and example, in action and philosophy, we have earned respect for ourselves and our fellow blind, the respect of free men and of equals.

All this, and more, federationism has done for blind Americans. All this it can do for others. It is time that we shared these fruits of struggle and victory with our brothers in other lands. Let the word go out from this convention that we of the National Federation stand ready to lend our efforts and energies to the building of world unity among the blind. Let the liberating principle of federation--the spirit of democratic association and collective self-direction--catch fire among the blind people of Asia, of Europe, of Africa, of Latin America, as it caught fire and blazed forth in the hearts of blind American twenty years ago, and still sustains them by its warmth.

What is this peculiar potent spirit which we call federationism? What are its explosive ingredients? What does it have to offer to the blind of all nations which they do not have and cannot obtain from their governments, their private agencies and public corporations?

Federationism is many things to many men. First of all it is an indispensable means of collective self-expression, a megaphone through which the blind may speak their minds and voice their demands--and be assured of a hearing.

Federationism is a source of comradeship, the symbol of a common bond, an invitation to commingling and communion--in a word, to brotherhood among the blind.

Federationism is a tool of political and social action, an anvil on which to hammer out the programs and policies, projects and platforms, that will advance the mutual welfare and security of the blind as a group.

Federationism is the expression of competence and confidence, the sophisticated construction of able men and women--not a retreat for the lost and foundered. It is a home of the brave and a landmark of the free.

Federationism is the synonym of independence--the antonym of custodialism and dependency. It is the blind leading themselves, standing on their own feet, walking in their own paths at their own pace by their own command. It is the restoration of pride, the bestowal of dignity and the achievement of identity.

Federationism is an agency of orientation--a school for the sightless--an incomparable method of personal rehabilitation and adjustment to the unpopular condition of being blind.

Federationism is a dedication--a commitment of the mind

and heart, an act of faith and an adventure of the spirit, which issues a call to greatness and a summons to service on the part of all who volunteer to enter its ranks.

Federationism is a spearhead of revolution, bespeaking a rising tide of expectation on the part of the once "helpless blind"--a blunt repudiation of time-dishonored stereotypes and an organized demand for the conferral of rights too long withheld and hopes too long deferred.

These are some--by no means all--of the features and faces of federationism which are a familiar part of the experience of organized blind Americans. There is nothing about them that is exclusive to Americans or prohibited to others. They are not contraband but common currency. They are as universal as the claims of democracy. Federationism, like blindness, is no respecter of persons or peoples. For purposes of democratic self-organization among us there is neither black nor white, Jew nor Greek, Christian nor Brahman--they are all one within the universal community of the blind.

Nevertheless it would be untrue to the facts, and unfair to the delegates here tonight, to deny that there have been unique and distinctive elements in the organizational experience of American Federationists through the past quarter century. What we have wrought in this land can be paralleled elsewhere. It may even be improved upon. It can never be exactly duplicated.

What we have built in our National Federation is a monument to the character of blind Americans who refuse to "lie down and play blind," who are imbued with the old-fashioned pioneer virtues of self-reliance and rugged individuality. It is well that they have been. For against these handicapped Americans and their dream of federation have been ranged the powerful forces of a smothering, mothering custodialism which exhibits what I pointed to twenty-four years ago as the peculiar tyranny of kindness. The blind in our democratic country have rarely been the victims of deliberate malevolence; but they have uniformly been the victims of organized benevolence suffocating the will to break out of traditional blind alleys into the competitive mainstream of community life. One of the greatest and most irrational handicaps we have faced on our journey into freedom has been the massive opposition to our vital aims of welfare agencies and bureaus supposedly dedicated to the service of the blind. This tragic paradox springs from the peculiar history of charity organization and social welfare in America and ancestral England--a history remarkable for its philanthropy and humane concern, but remarkable also for its furious resistance to the claims of the impoverished and disabled to the

normal rights of opportunity and equality.

If our organizational history has had special liabilities, it has also had assets not likely to be encountered in other lands and cultures. The most important of these, of course, is the heritage of democracy itself. Our movement of federationism could not have occurred, let alone have prospered, in a civilization less deeply committed to the great values of personal freedom, economic opportunity and social equality. Indeed we can only hold these truths to be self-evident, and these rights unalienable, because previous generations of Americans have fought to make them so. We blind Americans stand on our own feet; but we also stand on the shoulders of our forefathers. We have been blessed with a climate of tolerance and a tradition of civility. We address a society ravaged by misinformation but susceptible to change. Not all of the world's blind populations can feel a similar assurance.

But there is a compensating factor in this special achievement of American and European democracy, which the flourishing movement of the National Federation reflects. It has not only changed the map of the world; it has also radically altered its states of mind and ways of life. It is, I am sure, no news to you that the nonwestern world is now well embarked upon that twofold revolution which we ourselves undertook at least a century ago: the social revolution of industrialization and the political revolution of democracy. In this exportation and distribution of the fruits of our great accomplishment--including our concepts of public welfare and social security--we Federationists are obliged to take an active role of guidance and counsel. We are obligated as Americans, and we are obligated as blind persons. We owe it not only to the blind of less favored lands, we owe it also to ourselves, to complete the mission of collective self-liberation--the revolutionary movement of federationism--which the National Federation has so effectively begun.

I have listed a few of the assets and liabilities of our American experiment in federationism. It goes without saying that these will be different for other nations, both for those which have some history of organization among the blind and those which do not. And they will be different in another and greater way for a world federation in which the efforts of the blind of all nations are joined.

Let us recognize that for some countries, notably the newly developing nations of Asia and Africa, the assets may even appear invisible and the liabilities overpowering. But that should not dismay us--for that is exactly how they first appear in the life of every newly blinded person. And that, I may add, is how they first appear in the

career of every fledgling organization of the blind.

That is how they must have appeared to the blind people of Pakistan as recently as 1958--before a frail and not very young Scots-woman named Isabelle Grant arrived to start a social revolution. Today there is a flourishing independent federation of the blind in Pakistan--whose assets already outnumber its liabilities, and whose courage and hope far outweigh its handicaps.

Let us grant the full measure of differences among the blind peoples of the world--differences of cultural pattern and tradition, of education and literacy and language, of governmental responsibility and responsiveness, of industrial development and job opportunity. Let us assess these differences and difficulties in all their immensity.

And having done so, let us weigh against them the common needs and mutual aspirations which link the blind of all the nations. But let us not stop at listing our needs--let us post our demands. Let us formulate and proclaim a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Blind People--and then let us work together to put it across throughout the world. That is a purpose which alone overrides all the differences among us--and that is a purpose which will one day vanquish them.

In formulating our Universal Declaration of Rights, we could do worse than begin with the grand design of our own American movement--the three great goals which are engraved upon the seal of the National Federation, and in the hearts of all Federationists. They are: Security, Opportunity, Equality. Until those objectives have become realities in the daily lives of blind men and women everywhere in the world, our task will remain unfinished and our mission unaccomplished.

These three goals are of course not identical, although they are related. Nor do they have the same order of priority or urgency in all parts of the world. In many lands, where poverty is the norm and industry is the exception, the goal of Security alone is such a far-off divine event that Opportunity and Equality must seem pure fancy. In still other lands the order of priority may be reversed: for many blind Europeans it is not Security but Opportunity which has yet to come knocking.

Once again our own special experience is instructive. For in the course of our national history--from the Declaration of Independence to the Social Security Act and beyond to the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education--these three great themes have had a curiously shifting and alternating career. At first it was Opportunity

which held the center of attention, during the halcyon days of free land and open frontiers. In that period of our national adolescence, the goal of Security was commonly regarded as the cry of cowards and the enemy of adventure. But then the frontiers closed down; the free land trickled away from the public domain, and finally, as a capping blow, the great depression struck the nation. Security suddenly took on both urgency and respectability--and an historic act of federal legislation was passed to give it public sanction.

Few Americans today of either party would wish to undo the welfare programs of social security. Their basic purpose of providing a floor of protection against the accidents of fortune and misfortune has become a permanent part of the American creed. But we know now--as we have always known--that the goal of Security, once affirmed and accomplished, is not enough. Man cannot live by charitable bread alone; he demands the right to earn his own daily bread. He is not content to be cared for and supported by custodians; the free man demands the opportunity for self-care and self-support. In the year 1956, when precisely these rights were written into the purposes of public assistance, the Social Security Act revolutionized itself. It became in principle, though not yet in administration, a Social Opportunity Act. Since that date it has embodied the recognition of society that the goal of security is only fulfilled in opportunity, and that opportunity in turn is a hope deferred until it is grounded on a firm foundation of security.

And now, in the 1960's, we are confirming another self-evident truth: that even these grand objectives of security and opportunity together are not enough to meet the needs of free men. For the age we are entering is an Age of Equality. Everywhere in our land, with all deliberate speed (sometimes with more deliberation than speed), the barriers to equal treatment, equal protection and equal access are falling. Not only are they falling as between the races; they are falling as between the rich and poor--and they are falling as between the sighted and the sightless. We who are blind are caught up in a broader social movement aimed at erasing all arbitrary divisions, arbitrary discriminations and arbitrary distinctions between man and man wherever they exist. Let me amend that statement; we are not "caught up" in this movement toward equality; we are in its front ranks. For the blind know as few others can the high personal costs of inequality; their lives are lived in the shadow of its stigma--and in the shelter of its blind alleys.

But today the blind are emerging from the shadows; and they are emerging in force. By the strength of their own organization, by the power of their collective will, blind Federationists are rewriting

the terms of their contract with society. In their union there is strength--and in their strength is a renewal of self-confidence and a rehabilitation of pride. Federationism not only aims at Equality: it creates it.

A few years before the outbreak of World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared prophetically that his generation of Americans had a rendez-vous with destiny. They did indeed. They kept that rendez-vous--and all mankind is thankful that they arrived on time for the appointment. I am convinced that this generation of blind Americans now has a rendez-vous with destiny: that we are the advance guard of a movement destined in time to transform the lives and fortunes of the blind people of the world. That transformation will not be accomplished in the first year, or in the first decade, or even in the first generation. But, in the well-remembered words of another President, let us begin. Let us reason together--to compare our experiences, to pool our resources and to combine our strengths. Let us act together, to build our common foundations and to erect our platforms. Let us march together, against the ubiquitous foes of ignorance and folly, prejudice and pride, which stand across our paths the world over.

Above all, let us begin.

NFB RESOLUTIONS

(Editor's Note: A total of seventeen resolutions were adopted by the NFB at the Phoenix convention. Some of them break new ground; some restate and apply policies already established; still others are in the nature of reaffirmations; all are summarized below. Complete texts may be obtained from Federation headquarters in Sacramento.)

64-01. The NFB reaffirms its sponsorship of minimum wage legislation covering the sheltered shops and expresses appreciation by name to those who have furthered such legislation in the Congress.

64-02. The NFB reaffirms the minimum presumed need principle in public assistance programs.

64-03. The NFB reaffirms its condemnation of state relatives' responsibility laws and points to the recent decision of the California

Supreme Court holding one such law unconstitutional.

64-04. The NFB endorses the medicare proposal presently before Congress and directs its officers to seek an expansion of it to provide medical and hospital care to those covered by disability insurance.

64-05. The NFB directs its officers to take steps, including introduction of federal legislation and appeals to the chiropractic accreditation board, to bring to an end discrimination against blind persons in admissions to chiropractic schools and to the practice of the profession.

64-06. The NFB instructs its delegate to the WCWB to do all in his power to gain greater representation for the blind themselves in the World Council and to induce that body to terminate its undemocratic practices.

64-07. The NFB urges the WCWB to assume its responsibility to the blind of the world, that it dedicate itself to meaningful programs, and that it manifest its faith and genuine acceptance of the blind by immediately promoting the adoption of a declaration of universal rights for the blind.

64-08. The NFB commends Robert S. Bray, Division for the Blind, Library of Congress, for his leadership in stimulating advances and for his concern in upgrading library services to the blind. The NFB supports continued progress and improvements by the Division for the Blind, Library of Congress, and specifically recommends greater emphasis on production of the classics, basic books (as starred in the Standard Catalog for Public Libraries) and practical books (such as the secretary's handbook and like material).

64-09. The NFB expresses its opposition to pending legislation permitting a blind person a sighted guide to travel on commercial airlines for one fare in view of the provision by the airlines of all necessary services for the convenient and safe travel of blind persons.

64-10. The NFB recommends that its president appoint a Memorial Committee to plan and conduct memorial services for departed members as a part of our annual conventions.

64-11. The NFB directs its officers to seek a change in existing federal departmental regulations which would make the vending stand preference of the Randolph-Sheppard Act applicable also to vending machines.

64-12. The NFB expresses its opposition to adding self-care and independent living services to the vocational rehabilitation program, believing that that program should be confined to the vocational training of handicapped persons and their placement in self-supporting occupations and competitive callings, not in sheltered shops.

64-13. The NFB desires to maintain the integrity of the Federal Books for the Blind program and directs its officers to combine their efforts with those of the National Association of the Physically Handicapped to establish a separate federal program of books for other handicapped groups.

64-14. The NFB directs its officers by legislation and otherwise to secure for sheltered shop workers the rights of union organization and collective bargaining.

64-15. The NFB condemns the use of sheltered shops as job-conditioning, job-training, and rehabilitation facilities or as playing any role in the rehabilitation process. In the rehabilitation and training of disabled persons emphasis should be placed upon methods alternative to the sheltered shop such as on-the-job training in competitive non-sheltered employment, the use of vocational schools, apprenticeship training programs, tutorials, and regular educational institutions.

64-16. The NFB calls upon the Secretary of Labor to expand the size of the Advisory Committee on Sheltered Workshops by naming at least ten additional members to said committee, such ten members to be selected from membership organizations of disabled people and persons who are recommended by organizations of disabled people.

64-17. The NFB urges all of its affiliates and all agencies working for the general welfare of the blind to seek uniform laws asserting the rights of a blind person accompanied by a guide dog specially trained for that purpose to be entitled to use all forms of public transportation and to gain admittance to all types of public accommodations in each and every state in the nation.

NFB RESOLUTIONS RE WCWB

(Editor's Note: The Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, meeting in New York July 29-August 11, will have to face a rising tide of dissatisfaction and criticism, coming from many quarters of the globe and relating to many subjects. Some inkling of the grounds of complaint can be gathered from the subjects of proposed amendments to the constitution: composition of the executive committee; tenure of the president; relative number of representatives from the various regions; representation of the blind themselves. This seems an appropriate time to publish the two resolutions adopted at the NFB Phoenix convention dealing with the WCWB.)

Resolution 64-06.

Whereas, the National Federation of the Blind, an organization of the blind which has been the major force behind programs enhancing the educational, economic and employment opportunities of blind people of the United States, has from its inception felt the fierce opposition of agencies for the blind which have preferred to treat blind people much in the manner of colonial subjects to serve their own vested interests rather than following a truly professional policy of working with blind people for the solution of blind people's problems; and

Whereas, these same agencies for the blind have formed an international organization known as the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind and has with similarly minded agencies from other countries dominated this organization and sought to diminish the role played by organizations of the blind, having in fact illegally deprived the National Federation of its rightful position on the Executive Committee of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind; and

Whereas, under the domination of these agencies the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind has in the many years of its existence failed to do anything substantially towards the identification and solution of the economic and social deprivation of the millions of blind people in the world, but rather has used the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind to serve their own needs being primarily preoccupied with administrative trivia and problems; and

Whereas, the majority of the world's fourteen million blind people live in newly developing countries who have recently thrown off the custodialism of colonialism and have entered into an era of enthusiastic and nationalistic progress since their independence; and

Whereas, the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind by its very history, structure and perpetuation of custodialism cannot and has not utilized the energies of the peoples of these new nations to solve overwhelming problems of poverty and despair and social ostracism; and

Whereas, it has been the experience of the National Federation of the Blind that blind people are the best agents in the solution of their problems; now therefore

Be is resolved that the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled on this 3rd day of July, 1964 in the city of Phoenix, Arizona, instructs its delegate to the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind to seek an end to the undemocratic practices in the organization and seek to gain for the blind people of the world a greater voice in this world council of agencies; and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed throughout the world.

Adopted July 3, 1964

Resolution 64-07.

Whereas, today blind persons in the United States and some other countries are proving their innate capacities for employment and for full integration into society; and

Whereas, the National Federation of the Blind, since its founding in 1940, has been instrumental in developing effective programs for the education, rehabilitation, and general welfare of the blind and awakening public awareness and acceptance of the new image of blind people--a public understanding of the fact that the blind are capable, responsible citizens rather than the old, outmoded concept of the blind as mendicants, indigents, and incompetents; and

Whereas, the significant gains made by the National Federation of the Blind have been impeded by many agencies for the blind which still foster programs characterized by this outmoded conception of blindness; and

Whereas, many of these agencies with repugnant attitudes about the blind dominate the policies and posture of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind; and

Whereas, the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind is in

the position for exercising leadership in developing effective programs for the blind and securing the rights of the blind throughout the world as first-class citizens; and

Whereas, the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind has failed to meet its responsibility to millions of blind men and women throughout the world by its refusal to give organizations of the blind representation in its deliberations, committees, counsels and administration and has accomplished this through flagrant abuse of its control of organization procedures, by such practices as secret and closed meetings and the absence of accurate minutes; now therefore

Be it resolved by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this 3rd day of July, 1964 in Phoenix, Arizona that this organization deplores the current structure of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, its denial of membership and representation to organizations of the blind, its failure to encourage self-organization of the blind throughout the world, and its violation of democratic procedures; and

Be it further resolved that the National Federation of the Blind urges the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind to assume its responsibility to the blind of the world, that it dedicate itself to meaningful programs, and that it manifest its faith and genuine acceptance of the blind by immediately promoting the adoption of a declaration of universal rights for the blind; and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be distributed throughout the world.

Adopted July 3, 1964

NEWEL PERRY AWARD PRESENTATION

(Editor's Note: These words of presentation were selected by President Russell Kletzing in making the Newel Perry Award to Dr. Isabelle Grant at the NFB Phoenix convention. They are graceful in themselves and assess the biography and work of a remarkable woman.)

The Newel Perry Award represents the highest honor which the organized blind of the National Federation can bestow. It is our Croix

de Guerre" conferred annually upon a single individual who has served in the front ranks of our embattled cause with particular valor and distinction. The roster of past recipients of the Newel Perry Award bears out that design: it is an honor roll of distinguished men from a wide variety of vocations and locations--from private industry and public administration, from education and social welfare, from both houses of Congress, and from every section of the country.

But that roster, for all its splendor, has hitherto been marred by one conspicuous flaw. It has included distinguished men but no distinguished women. For an organization committee to equality and opposed to discrimination, this is a serious blot on our escutcheon. I am happy to announce that it is now to be corrected.

But that is not the only precedent which our ceremony this evening represents. Previous Newel Perry Award winners have all been United States citizens, whose work has primarily benefited blind Americans. The lady whom we honor tonight holds a dual citizenship: she too is a citizen of the United States, but she is also a citizen of the world. Her primary allegiance is to all the blind people of the earth--regardless of nationality, race, color, or condition of servitude.

You have guessed her name. The recipient of the Newel Perry Award for 1964 is Dr. Isabelle Grant.

If we of the National Federation honor Isabelle tonight, it is because she has been doing us honor for many years. To blind people everywhere she has become the gracious and dynamic symbol of federationism--of voluntary self-organization and self-advancement. We have long since dubbed Isabelle our "Ambassador without Portfolio"--and indeed she needs no portfolio, since she carries the message and spirit of our movement in her heart and expresses it in her work.

Isabelle Grant is of course more than that--more than our ambassador and chief missionary overseas. In her own right she is a leader of the blind, a skillful educator, a tireless promoter, and an astonishing example of the triumph of mind and will over physical limitation. Everyone here knows of her fabled travels around the world, accompanied only by her faithful, understanding and sustaining companion, a white cane named "Oscar." And we all know what these travels have been like: not the leisurely excursion of a tourist but the hard road of the crusader--seeking not ease but hardship, and concentrating in particular upon those newly emerging, poverty-stricken lands whose teeming populations of blind people are both the largest and neediest in the world.

Nor do I need to dwell at length upon the social miracles achieved by Dr. Grant over the past six years for the blind of Pakistan. She has inspired them with faith, a faith once undreamed of, in their powers and their collective future. She has stimulated their voluntary organization and worked with them to build a strong foundation of federationism. She has pushed, prodded and pestered the government of Pakistan into sponsoring a full-fledged revolution in its attitudes surrounding the education of blind children and the training of teachers for them.

To this great pioneering work Isabelle has brought the best of credentials--for her life has been synonymous with education. She was educated herself in the schools of Scotland and the universities of Glasgow and Southern California (where she received her doctorate)--and she has ever since continued her education in the school of hard experience. A teacher and vice principal in the Los Angeles public schools for upwards of a generation, she retired some years ago only to commence a new and more ambitious career--that of the education and advancement of the blind. She has long been a leader both in the California Council and in the National Federation. She has organized and guided blind teachers through workshops and seminars, and has taken active part in a host of international conferences on education of the blind.

But no list of specifics can convey the full scope of this gentlewoman's teaching. By her deeds, by her words, and by her enlightening example, Dr. Grant has truly educated us all.

Isabelle, your students of the National Federation of the Blind salute you--and herewith present to you, as a token of our appreciation and admiration, the Newel Perry Award for 1964.

MONITOR MINIATURES

The following item about Dr. Freid is excerpted from a spring issue of THE GROWL, a publication of the Des Moines Lions Club: "None will complain about the speaker whom Ken Jernigan provided when Lieutenant Governor Mooty had to cancel his appearance. . . . We have never been treated to a more brilliant tour de force than the swift-moving and witty, but incisive, analysis of the American presidency provided by Dr. Jacob Freid, Chairman of the Department of Political Science in the Senior College of the New School for Social

Research, New York City--perhaps the nation's leading center of adult education, founded by such renowned scholars as Harold Laski and Charles Beard. Dr. Freid was in Des Moines wearing quite a different hat as Executive Director of the Jewish Braille Institute of America and as a central figure in the workshop for tapists and braillists held last Thursday and Friday by the Iowa Commission for the Blind. Himself only partly sighted, Dr. Freid used the words of Job in paying tribute to Lions as 'eyes to the blind. "'

Lon E. Alsup, director of the Texas State Commission for the Blind for 22 years, will retire at the end of August, 1964, according to an announcement in THE NEW OUTLOOK FOR THE BLIND. Blind from birth, Alsup graduated from the Texas School for the Blind in 1918 and pursued a career as an independent businessman for several years before winning election to the Texas legislature. During his first term he co-sponsored the bill which created the State Commission for the Blind. Alsup remained a member of the legislature until 1941, after which he became associated with the Commission as executive secretary-director. . . . "Physical Education and Recreation for Visually Handicapped Children and Youth" is the title of a summer school workshop held from August 3 to 14 under sponsorship of Michigan State University, American Association of Instructors of the Blind, and the Michigan School for the Blind. The workshop featured a variety of recreational activities for students in addition to the workshop clinics. . . . San Francisco (California) now has nearly 1,700 handicapped men and women completely qualified for jobs but who are barred because of employer resistance to their handicaps. A report, financed by a \$3,000 grant from the San Francisco Foundation, was based on an exhaustive three-month survey that also showed: (1) The competitively employable handicapped stay jobless at least 32 percent longer than persons with no handicaps; (2) The direct tax cost of maintaining a 25-person sample of handicapped, jobless men and women totaled \$3,403 a month, not counting unemployment benefit payments or relief; (3) Persons with disabled limbs or neuropsychiatric histories comprised 39 percent of 575 sample cases studied. (From THE SPOKESMAN, July 1964.) . . . The Twenty-fifth Anniversary Convention of the United Blind of Minnesota was held on the weekend of June 6 in Minneapolis. John Nagle participated in panels, offered legislative advice and delivered the banquet speech. The new officers are Carl Larson, president; Lorraine Arvidson, secretary; board members Bertha Bernsdorf, Frank Stifter, Ethel Rood, and Alma Stifter. . . . Roanoke, Va. June 24 (AP), Carolyn Scott, totally blind, is a speech therapist at Camp East Seal in Craig County. Thirty handicapped children go daily to Carolyn's classroom for help in overcoming speech impediments. . . . June 14 was National Blind Golfer's Day at the Fall River (Mass.) Country

Club. Best of the four blind golfers over the difficult FRCC layout was big Bill Gilman of Old Orchard Beach, Maine, director of the Maine Institute for the Blind and for 13 years vice president of the U.S. Blind Golfers' Association. Bill played the nine holes in 57. . . . Miss C. L. Corbin, 4705 W. Harrison Street, Chicago 60644, writes that The Chicago Area Committee of the Blind would like to hear from any blind person interested in improving the Public Assistance Law of Illinois. Since Illinois went under title XVI, blind aid has markedly deteriorated.

August 5-8 are the dates, San Antonio is the city for the Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Blind Veterans Association. The Federated Blind of North Dakota held their annual convention in Fargo June 6 and 7. The new officers are: Lorge Gotto, president; Dr. R. J. Bjornseth, first vice president; Arthur Strom, second vice president. Carried over were Melvin Ekberg, secretary and Francis Sears, treasurer. . . . Recordings for the Blind estimates that there are 2,000 blind students attending colleges and universities throughout the United States. (WASHINGTON POST, May 21, 1964.) . . . The Blind Authors and Musicians Union of Paris, France, announces the release of a classical record, 33 rpm., 12 inch (Homere Records). On one side is Haydn's Toy Symphony and on the other Mozart's Eine kleine Nachtmusik. The record may be purchased from the Union at 26 rue de Charenton, Paris 12^e. . . . Federation clubs might take a lesson in fund raising from the Columbia Chapter of the South Carolina Aurora Club. In their Eleventh Annual Bar-B-Que Benefit Supper they sold 1,900 plates at a net gain to the club of \$1,388.20. (From the PALMETTO AURORAN, May 1964.)

Braille Math Tables Free to Blind. Science for the Blind, of Haverford, Pennsylvania, sends an announcement of special interest to advanced students of mathematics, both academic and professional: "In an effort to assist blind people interested in science we will supply, free of charge, a loose leaf book entitled BRAILLE NOTATIONS AND TABLES. This book contains such data as tables of four-place logarithms, trigonometric functions, hyperbolic and exponential relations, a table of integrals, atomic element tables, etc. The math code used is a hybrid made up partly of Taylor, Nemeth, and Benham. As additional material is prepared, sheets are sent to those who have requested the book so that the new material may be added in the proper place." Send requests to Science for the Blind, Haverford, Pa. . . . A general science monthly is published by Science for the Blind for children or those with little scientific background. It may be borrowed by regular NFB listeners at a cost of \$10.00 per year.

Alice Parkinson, blind medical secretary of Highland Park,

California, was recently the subject of a feature story in the LOS ANGELES TIMES. She works part-time for a private doctor and part-time for the San Gabriel Community Hospital. Transcribing from voice recordings about 20 reports a day--from complicated descriptions of surgery to patients' histories and physical examinations. . . . The Iowa Association of the Blind held its annual convention at Vinton on the weekend of June 6. Neal Butler was elected the new president; Mrs. Ethel Latham, first vice president; Mrs. Mabel Nading, second vice president; William Klontz, secretary; and Mrs. H. E. Stutters, treasurer. Professor tenBroek delivered the banquet address and attended throughout the convention.

"Since the second World War, 3,000 blind people have been rehabilitated and employed," says a NEW OUTLOOK report on Yugoslavia. "85.8% work in open professions, i.e., industry, various organizations, and as telephone operators; as physiotherapists; as typists, teachers in schools for the blind and regular schools and universities, and in other callings. 9% perform handicraft jobs in their homes, while only 5.2% are employed in workshops for the blind." . . . The Curtis Circulation Company of Philadelphia has offered to train seriously disabled persons to become telephone salespeople--with one of the stipulations being that they do not mention their handicaps on the telephone. . . . Authoritative scientific information concerning the nation's space program is contained in SELECTIONS FROM NASSAU FACTS now in regional libraries. Included are articles on Mariner, Ranger, Explorer and other satellites. . . . The Eastern Conference of Home Teachers will meet in New York City at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel from October 4 through 7, 1964. . . . STARTING AND MANAGING A SMALL BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN published by the Small Business Administration is available on tape from the Library of Congress or can be purchased for \$2.43 from the American Foundation for the Blind.

A gavel from House Speaker John W. McCormack was presented recently to Mrs. Edna Charette, retired president of the Associated Blind of Greater Fall River, Rhode Island, according to a news story published in the Rhode Island JOURNAL-BULLETIN. . . . Some 300 pairs of eyeglasses were packed and shipped to Pakistan last spring by the Greenfield-Athol Association of the Blind, a chapter of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts. . . . Two new monographs are now available from the American Foundation for the Blind Research Series. ABSTRACT FUNCTIONING IN THE BLIND, by Edmund Joseph Rubin, Ph.D., (\$.90) comparing the abilities of the congenitally or early blind with those who become blind later in life. RESISTANCE TO CATARACT SURGERY, by Irving Miller, D.S.W., (\$1.50) discusses the inhibitions that occur in those who resist surgical treatment which

may restore vision.

For eminence attained as an "able teacher, scholar, humanitarian, and superb public servant" Parsons College, Iowa, recently conferred an honorary doctor of laws--LL.D.--degree on Professor tenBroek. Just two weeks earlier the California Social Workers Organization had honored Professor tenBroek with an Achievement Award for significant contribution to social welfare.

The sudden passing of May Pelsor on the train returning from the NFB convention in the presence of the other members of the Kansas City delegation greatly shocked all present. May was 63 and an employee of the Kansas City Association for the Blind. Our guest from Ceylon, Rienzi Alagiyawanna, who was traveling to Kansas City with the delegation, wrote: "The silent way in which she passed away deeply moved all of us, and made me specially thoughtful of the oblivion that lies in store, and the urgency of selfless action in the immediate present."

The California State School for the Blind in Berkeley has announced the retirement of its renowned superintendent Dr. Berthold Lowenfeld, effective as of September 1, 1964. Dr. Lowenfeld came to the California school in 1949 already having achieved distinction in the education of the blind. From 1922 to 1938 he served as a teacher of blind children and educational administrator in Austria. When the Nazis occupied Austria in 1938, American friends enabled him to come to the United States where he was soon appointed Director of Educational Research at the AFB and instructor at Teachers' College, Columbia University. Among his many books and articles is Our Blind Children--Growing and Learning With Them, which has been described as "A God-send for the ophthalmologist as well as a Bible for parents." Dr. Lowenfeld retires early, at the age of 62, in order to devote himself more fully to research and writing. . . . Dr. Everett Wilcox has been appointed the next superintendent of the California school. Wilcox has been superintendent of the Illinois Braille and Sight Saving School for the past two years, has been working with blind children since 1939 and has his doctorate of education in special education from the University of Oregon.

The Progressive Blind of Missouri are establishing a fund to purchase braille duplicating equipment and a supply of paper for the blind of Ceylon. The target is \$1,000. Contributions may be sent direct to the Fund for the Blind of Ceylon, Lynwood, State Bank, Kansas City, Missouri. . . . Thursday, July 2, 1964, the U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare,

announced it is financing, by a \$77,000 contract, a 30-month project by San Francisco State College to improve the teaching of braille. Some 400 blind or nearly blind children will be selected from various schools throughout the country to participate in the project. They will be divided into four groups, each using one of the four major methods of learning braille. Once the best method is agreed upon, a new textbook will be prepared by project staff members for use by teachers of the blind. The researchers hope that the project also will shed some light on whether the age at which a child's sight became impaired has any bearing on ability to learn braille.

July 2, 1964, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Anthony J. Celebrezze today announced the appointment of two new members of the National Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitation. They are Don W. Russell of Little Rock, Ark., Director of the Arkansas Rehabilitation Service and Aaron Solomon of Somerville, Mass., President of Ace Electronics, Inc., who last year was named Employer of the Year by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. The National Advisory Council, established by statute in 1954, is an advisory body to the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, which administers a national program of grants for research and demonstration in the problems of rehabilitating physically or mentally handicapped people.

As we go to press, news reaches us of the untimely and tragic death by a coronary of Norman Hamer of Lawrence, Mass. Norm was first vice president of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, a long-time Federationist and the operator of a very successful telephone answering service. He is survived by his wife Bernice (Bunny) and his three-year-old son Alan. This is the third death in the past year among the ABM leadership. Nate Nadelman died in October and Newt Ottone in May.

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

Published monthly in braille and distributed free to the blind by the National Federation of the Blind, President Russell Kletzing, 2341 Cortez Lane, Sacramento 25, California.

Inkprint edition produced and distributed by the National Federation of the Blind, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

Acting Editor: Jacobus tenBroek Assistant Editor: Floyd W. Matson
2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

News items and changes of address should be sent to the Editor.

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SEPTEMBER 1964

ACTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The following pages dramatically tell the story of the new, stronger National Federation of the Blind fighting for the rights and welfare of blind Americans. The story is of victory, defeat and standoff across the country--with victories making up the major portion of the tale. This was the saga presented to the NFB's Phoenix Convention on its last morning, climaxed and integrated into a meaningful whole by the penetrating address of NFB President Russell Kletzing, "The State of Our Union."

* * * * *

ONE STEP FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK (Condensed)

By Beverly Gladden, Field Director
California Council of the Blind

In 1960, the Governor appointed a Welfare Study Commission to investigate the problems of social welfare programs in California. No representative from a recipient group was appointed to this commission, which was composed primarily of county personnel. The Commission recommended that the Social Welfare Board be stripped of its functions of formulating policy, hearing appeals, and establishing uniform standards for the employment of social workers, and become an advisory board only. The legislature translated this recommendation into law and in September, 1963, the old board became extinct and the new board, or "nonboard," took over. Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, who had been a member of the Social Welfare Board for 13 years and its chairman for three, resigned from its impotent successor.

On the plus side, the California Council has scored some notable legislative victories. The two victories most illustrative of the Council's philosophy with regard to public assistance are the elimination of the requirement that relatives must contribute to the support of blind aid recipients and the elimination of the duration of residence requirement--victories won after two decades of effort. Thanks to a bill passed by the 1963 legislature, it is no longer possible for counties to exact a lien upon the property of an aid recipient for hospitalization. Though sponsored by the Council, all aid recipients benefited from the law. In 1961, the blind of California also obtained a guarantee of their right to organize, and a year later the Council was successful in obtaining a state official to work for the placement of blind and handicapped

employees in state civil service. Other gains included increased medical coverage for blind aid recipients and the establishment of a loan fund to assist blind persons in achieving self-support.

At the same (1962) session, a new Department of Rehabilitation was established. The Council had hoped that Services for the Blind would be placed in the Division for the Blind in the Social Welfare Department which has been sympathetic to the needs of the blind under its able chief, Perry Sundquist. Instead these services were placed in the new Rehabilitation Department whose top officials, except for the director who came from another state, had been antagonistic to the Council and to independent organizations of the blind. Although a separate unit had been created in the department covering services to the blind, it appears there are ominous symptoms that the needs of the blind may be swallowed up in the greater volume of needs of other handicapped groups.

* * * * *

TWIN VICTORIES (Condensed)

By Don Capps, President
South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind

After a substantial struggle, vending stand operators in South Carolina, I am happy to report, are no longer subject to having part of their income set aside to finance the vending stand program. In obtaining this legislation, we obtained excellent stories in newspapers which were doubtless read by the legislators. Also, we sent every member of the legislature a special brochure setting forth the reasons for eliminating the set-aside. In our whole campaign, we were tremendously assisted the national officers of the Federation in developing facts and figures for our case. These statistics showed the very low income the stand operators in our state enjoyed in relation to other states. Thanks to the removal of the set-aside, this will now be somewhat improved.

Aid to the blind in our state has also been far below that which was needed. We began looking into this when the Federation executive committee urged each state to ascertain whether federal funds had been passed on to aid recipients. Our investigation showed that funds appropriated by the legislature had not been utilized by the social welfare department to provide aid to the blind in a number of recent years, and that a substantial amount of federal funds had been lost to

South Carolina as a result. Again, newspaper publicity was an important aid in rectifying this situation. As a result of this and of conferences with state officials, the aid grants now being paid to the blind have been raised very substantially.

* * * * *

THE AGENCY THAT DIDN'T UNDERSTAND (Condensed)

By Manuel Rubin, President
Associated Blind of Massachusetts

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has always been in the forefront in social welfare. Her concern about her blind citizens is especially impressive. Those of our people who cannot work receive the highest average grant in the United States. Our people who work in the State-operated shops receive more than \$65.00 a week, tax free, and a retirement pension of seventy-five percent. Our home owners receive a \$3,000 real estate tax exemption, and we also have a \$2,000 State income tax exemption.

Our vending stand program is among the best in the country. The Massachusetts Division of the Blind builds and stocks the stand, trains the operator, and then turns the stand over to him completely with no set-aside requirements or any other strings attached.

The Massachusetts Association for the Adult Blind was the first private agency for the blind in the United States, organized around the turn of the century. It now operates Sunlight House, a resort where blind people from all over the State may spend a two-week summer vacation; maintains a small loan fund to assist blind persons for emergency or business purposes, and conducts many other worthwhile functions.

However, the Massachusetts Association needed new worlds to conquer. Other groups and agencies had taken over many of its activities, and it had to justify its existence. It was discovered several years ago that Federal funds were available if the right project could be found. A juicy grant was there just for the plucking.

The project which the Association picked was to demonstrate that blind people could be served better in many instances by general agencies rather than by special agencies for the blind--"human" needs as against blind needs. Of course this played right into the hands of Health,

Education, and Welfare; it would help to justify Title XVI of the Social Security Act. One hundred and forty thousand dollars of federal funds were allotted to the Massachusetts Association to conduct this project over a three-year period.

We of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts were entirely unaware of the project until an article appeared in the Boston GLOBE. We were astounded when we read it, because we saw in this project great danger to our people. The work of decades was in peril.

It is notable that, of the staff named to carry out the project, not a single blind person is on the list!

It is our contention that human needs are so bound up with blindness that they cannot be separated, and that a blind person can best be served by specially trained workers who have studied, and know at first hand the problems associated with blindness.

The Massachusetts Association is powerful, but you may be sure that we shall leave no stone unturned to see that our people will not be left to the mercies of uninterested and uninformed general agencies.

* * * * *

THE RIGHT TO TEACH (Condensed)

By Nancy Smalley, President
Educational Organization of the Blind, Los Angeles

Although there are more than forty blind teachers in public schools in California, several of the larger cities in our state, including the city of Los Angeles, categorically refuse to consider blind applicants for teaching positions. They maintain this position despite a law passed nearly twenty years ago through the efforts of the California Council of the Blind, which eliminates visual acuity requirements for teaching.

At our convention last fall, the Council resolved to make every effort to open the schools of Los Angeles to qualified blind teachers. The first step was a hearing before the City Board of Education at which Jim McGinnis, Council president, and working blind teachers presented the case. The Board, however, referred the matter to its personnel committee. While we were preparing written answers to questions propounded by this committee, it made a survey of all of the

blind teachers in public schools in California.

This survey is the most convincing, objective evidence yet developed as to the effectiveness of qualified blind persons to teach in the public schools. Nonetheless, there have been more questions and more delays. For several months we have been waiting for the personnel committee to make recommendations to the Board, but our patience is not inexhaustable. If our calm, reasoned approach is not effective soon, we are determined to take action in a more direct way. The seriousness of our purpose is indicated by the direction of our state convention that steps be taken, including picketing if necessary, to call this situation to the attention of the public and to overcome this illegal discrimination against blind teachers.

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STRUGGLE AGAINST ODDS (Condensed)

By Pauline Gomez, President
New Mexico Federation of the Blind

This is the story of our effort to procure an orientation center for the blind. The fact that the voice of the blind was heard for the first time by the twenty-sixth state legislature galvanized agency personnel to protect their present program and prevent any future organized activity. The legislation we sponsored last year created a committee to study the possibilities for an orientation center, and also resulted in bringing our program for the blind under formal observation.

The first meeting of the interim legislative committee was dominated by the state agencies, assisted by the field representative of the American Foundation for the Blind; but the committee nevertheless decided to survey the adequacy of existing state programs for the blind. After the hearing, the NMFB sent a letter to each of the committee members posing pointed questions as to the attitudes and actions of state agencies.

The second meeting of the interim committee was called on January 17 of this year. We were reinforced not only with experience but with testimony from blind persons, concrete reports and films from the Iowa and California orientation centers, testimony from members of the Lions Clubs, favorable interest from The Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped--and best of all, the leadership of a star general, our national president Russell Kletzing.

During the waiting period before the next meeting, we have not been idle and we have reason to rejoice over a few conquests: The NFB's own Kenneth Jernigan was invited by the Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped to be a featured speaker at a regional conference held here, and we had a successful state convention with a small group of loyal members ready to continue our climb.

We realize, as Federationists, that we will reach the end of our venture only when we have together broken through the walls of misconception and prejudice which have influenced our education and welfare for centuries.

* * * * *

A STUDY IN STATE AND NATIONAL TEAMWORK (Condensed)

By Rogers Smith, Vice President & Legislative
Chairman, Alabama Federation of the Blind

When we began planning improvements to Alabama's aid to the blind program, stimulated by Dr. tenBroek's visit to our state convention, it was one of the most poorly written aid laws in the country--and its grants to recipients were among the smallest. The National Federation drafted legislation completely reforming our program. The bill provided for a minimum grant plus additional allowances for actual needs in excess of this amount. It also established the residence requirement at one year, allowed an aid recipient to own his home and up to \$6,200 in property, along with necessary personal effects. It also provided that there should be no lien for repayment of the aid grant of hospitalization against property of a recipient, and eliminated the responsibility of relatives.

After its introduction, an analysis of the legislation was sent to the members of the Alabama Federation. More than thirty blind people appeared at the legislative hearings, and the bill was passed unanimously by both houses.

Almost immediately after its passage, the state welfare board, backed up by personnel from federal agencies, claimed that our new law had hurt the blind rather than helped them. The National Federation joined with us in routing this counterattack. An analysis of the bill, prepared by the NFB, was inserted in the Congressional Record by our distinguished Senator, Lister Hill, and this was of great weight in countering state agency arguments. Also, an opinion of the Attorney

General early this year fully supported the interpretation we in the National Federation placed on the bill.

Proof of the pudding, however, is in the aid checks. After only eight months, the average grant in Alabama has increased by \$14.00, a gain of more than twenty-five percent.

THE STATE OF OUR UNION

By Russell Kletzing

(Editor's Note: The following article by the president of the National Federation of the Blind is a slightly abridged version of a presidential report delivered before the NFB's annual convention at Phoenix, Arizona, on June 3, 1964.)

One of the most exciting and significant events of the National Federation's July convention at Phoenix--on a program well-packed with excitement and significance--was a series of five resounding reports from an many states, narrating five episodes of contemporary history. Taken together these reports gave the convention a cross-sectional view of the progress Federationists across the country are making through their state organizations toward the fulfillment of our common goals.

In some of the states the degree of progress has been spectacular; in some it has been modest; and in some it has been mixed with elements of retrogression. But in all cases there has been progress--and in every case it has been self-initiated and self-sustained, the forward movement of self-propulsion and independent direction, the advance which springs from collective self-organization and the united will of Federationists not just to work but to work together.

These successive reports on the union of our states--from California, New Mexico, South Carolina, Alabama, and Massachusetts--constituted in effect a report on the state of our union. They spelled out in large and luminous letters the intimate relationship that exists between the actions of our state affiliates and those of the National Federation of the Blind.

Let me take a moment to summarize the gist of these five separate stories of state achievement and struggle, not so much for themselves as for the moral and the momentum which they illustrate.

The California story, reported by Jim McGinnis and Nancy Smalley, presented a very mixed picture of advance on one front counterbalanced by frustration and stalemate on another: specifically, of great progress in welfare legislation vitiated by obstruction in welfare administration and in the field of rehabilitation. But their report demonstrated that, if all is not quiet on our western front, thanks to the work of the California Council of the Blind many more battles are being won in that sector than have been lost.

The news from New Mexico was still more heartening. Pauline Gomez graphically described the amazing progress which has been made in that state toward the realization of a vision, in the form of an orientation center for the blind. Through the patient and persistent efforts of the New Mexico Federation and the National Federation that dream is on the way to becoming reality--in the face of stubborn and senseless opposition by the agencies of the state. Today the theme-song of New Mexico is: We came, we envisioned, we collaborated, we shall conquer.

Next the convention heard from Don Capps of the harvest being reaped in South Carolina as a result of seeds carefully sown and cultivated by the organized blind of that state. Among the triumphs of the Aurorans is a vastly improved vending stand law and the securing of new federal funds for the blind--again in the teeth of administrative harassment and hostility.

Fourth, we heard from Rogers Smith just how it happens that stars fall on Alabama. The passage of the new aid to the blind law in that state, hiking the cash grant by ten dollars and providing for special needs, makes an astonishing tale of triumph on the part of the organized blind after years of obstruction and obfuscation by both national and state administrative authorities.

Finally, Manny Rubin gave the convention an account of the interminable and baffling problem posed for the Associated Blind of Massachusetts in the form of a private agency utterly incapable of understanding the unique and distinctive characteristics of blindness and the blind--thereby tragically confusing the vital objective of integrating blind people into the community with the very different proposition of integrating and scrambling services for the blind with those for other recipients of aid.

These were then very diverse and different reports, based upon the special experiences and conflicts of five state organizations in as many sections of the land. But their differences could not obscure their underlying similarity--the overriding goals they share together and the values which they hold in common. Let us see if we can identify more exactly the core issues which bind together these several stories and several states, and how they relate to the long-term policies and philosophy of the National Federation.

I should like to begin by restating, without apology, what is familiar to us all--namely, the fundamental commitments and purposes of the National Federation and its affiliates. In my view these may be summarized in six points. First of these is the goal of full education and effective orientation for all blind people. Second is the aim of educating and informing the wider public with respect to the capabilities as well as the disabilities of the blind. Third is the theme of public assistance--of aid to the blind under social security--and its positive redirection along the paths of rehabilitation and vocational opportunity. Fourth is the great objective of employment--full employment of all adult blind persons of productive age, and normal competitive employment where blindness is not complicated by advanced age or multiple disability. Fifth is the omnipresent problem and challenge of our relationships with the agencies, both public and private, whose concern is with the welfare of the blind. Sixth and last is the principle of organized and concerted activity of blind people, by blind people, for blind people.

We of the National Federation want every blind child and adult, to the extent that he desires it, to have the most complete education of which he is capable. We want the public to know, to understand and to promote the capabilities of blind men and women. We want the government to provide, not the ends of life, but only the means of living--the floor of security and the base of opportunity which is all that the organized blind have ever asked or will ask of their society. We want every blind person who is able and willing to work to have his fair and equal chance at a job that makes full use of his skills and talent. We want to work closely and cooperatively, in carrying out these tasks, with the agencies in the field whose objectives and philosophy run parallel to ours; and to this end we hope to convert the unconverted agencies, and we pledge to maintain active pressure against those beyond conversion or redemption. Most of all we want these things not just for ourselves, not for blind Federationists alone nor even for blind Americans exclusively--but for the brotherhood of blind people the world over, for the coming International Federation of the Blind.

However furious the battles we have fought and will surely fight again over the enforcement of these goals, no one is likely to quarrel with them in principle--for they are no more than a restatement for the blind of the keystone articles of the democratic faith. Like liberty itself we hold these goals to be unalienable. They are the birthright of all free men, whether American or Asian, Buddhist or Christian, blind or sighted.

We also know from hard experience, however, that these rights of blind people can be alienated and that these truths are not self-evident to all in government, in the agencies, and in the public at large. We know that their enactment and enforcement requires insistence and persistence on the part of all of us--in Washington, in the state capitals, and in the communities of the land. In short, our ends can only be attained together--by united and coordinated action at all levels of association and action. I recall the pertinent pronouncement of Edmund Burke on the alternatives of hanging together or hanging separately. "When bad men combine," said Burke, "the good must associate; else they will surely fall, one by one, unpitied sacrifices in a contemptible struggle." Let us then get associated and stay associated, in all our mutual tasks and common aspirations.

Let us look a little harder at each of the six points in our platform. First is the education of the blind. It is an accepted axiom today that every blind person--man, woman or child--should have full opportunity to undertake all the schooling and training he may wish and can handle. It was not always thus, of course; the traditional schools for the blind, with their separate facilities and limited curriculum, were among the early milestones on the long road to equality. But today the importance of adequate education is more urgent than ever; there is a direct and unblinkable correlation between the level of a man's education and the height of his opportunity for advancement.

In our day blind children are educated for the most part either in residential schools for the blind or in regular schools with special resource classes. That old-time controversy as to which is the superior system has lost its vitality, for the simple reason that both are here to stay. The residential schools now mainly serve those blind children from areas where the population is too sparse to justify a resource class, along with others whom family care has rendered too dependent to function immediately in a public school setting, and also (increasingly) those youngsters whose

emotional instability or mental limitations prevent their attending public schools. More blind children are being absorbed into the public schools with resource classes because of the strong desire of parents to keep their children at home with the family.

The important question, of course, is not whether a blind child attends a residential school or a regular school, but whether he attends a good school. On this point it is noteworthy that our local and state chapters have accomplished much to improve both kinds of school. Again and again they have spearheaded efforts to secure adequate financial support for both. They have mobilized blind residents to demand the transfer of residential schools to better locations and to separate them from schools for the deaf, where the scrambling of teaching methods has worked to the disadvantage of both deaf and blind students. Our chapters have also sponsored legislation to obtain better equipment and have directly purchased braille writers and other materials for many integrated classes. In several cases, state affiliates of the Federation have fought for and won the elimination of harsh and senseless treatment of blind students by incompetent teachers and administrators. Organizations of the blind have worked together nationally and in the states to secure qualified teachers, and have accomplished much to spread the radical idea that well-trained and equipped blind teachers are a source not only of good formal instruction but of informal rehabilitation and renewed self-confidence among their blind students. In all these ways and more, the National Federation has been instrumental in bringing about a steady advance in the quality and performance of schooling for the blind.

Education, to be sure, is not limited to formal studies in the schools; it embraces also the process of learning to live with blindness, of adjusting to and surmounting the physical and social handicap--in a word, of orientation. Although the processes of orientation and education go hand in hand, the success of both rests upon the ability of blind persons themselves to resist and repudiate the false stereotypes surrounding blindness which still circulate in the wider society. Blind persons must first come to understand what blindness is, and what it is not, before they can move with independence and assurance through the social mainstream--instead of remaining, in the words of the poet, "alone and afraid in a world they never made."

Nothing can so effectively enable a blind person to find himself and to find his way in the wider world than a good orientation center. But, it is not enough for this purpose that the buildings be

modern, the equipment up to date and the staff properly trained. What is essential is that the orientation center be imbued with the spirit of opportunity not of limitation, of abilities and possibilities not of lacks and losses. Let me emphasize this point as emphatically as I can; millions of dollars are being wasted in salaries and equipment for institutions ostensibly dedicated to orientation whose atmosphere and attitudes can produce only disorientation. But now we know that it need not be so - for we have before us the outstanding examples of the state orientation centers in Iowa and California, the former sparked by the genius and Federationism of Kenneth Jernigan.

One final word on this crucial matter of education. No agency, institution or device has yet been developed for the enlightenment and self-advancement of blind persons than their own democratic associations--local, state and national. In learning about each other we learn from each other--and we learn about ourselves. If we in the National Federation are not precisely a mutual admiration society, we are surely a mutual orientation society. When the blind lead the blind, to amend an old parable, all shall rise out of the ditch!

Education of the blind, then--through residential and public schools, through orientation centers, and through the activities of our own democratic organizations--constitutes the first plank in our sixfold platform of goals to be achieved. The second plank is closely related--it is the task of educating the wider public to the true capabilities of blind people, not to their plight but to their powers, not to their pitiable condition but to their potential contribution. It is the task of leading an intellectual and emotional revolution, which will erase old prejudices and superstitions in favor of affirmative attitudes of acceptance and equality. Until the ancient shibboleths surrounding the blind man are utterly washed away, normal opportunity and participation in society will remain exceptional rather than conventional for those who are blind.

The National Federation and its affiliates in the states have worked systematically to bring about the new climate of understanding--and the signs are multiplying that our efforts have borne fruit. Over the years we have told our story and presented our case through all the media of press, radio and television--through speeches, panels, interviews, news features and magazine articles, talks¹ to civic groups, and a vast variety of Federation-sponsored educational and informative literature. I need hardly tell you that a

significant feature of nearly every state convention with national participation has been the strong use of local news outlets to spread the truth about blindness as well as the facts about the blind organizations and persons involved.

State affiliates and local chapters are in the best possible position to step up the flow of information to the general public. For it is a fact that people everywhere are sympathetic toward, and interested in, the problems and triumphs of blind people. Our chapters can stimulate and satisfy this interest by making available to the press straightforward stories about their people and their deeds. Another device of proven effectiveness is the pictorial brochure, which can tell the same human-interest story in graphic terms and circulate it through thousands of hands. A great expansion of all these efforts is needed at all levels of our organization--and such an expansion will take place at the national level as rapidly as our resources permit.

The blind need not only the good will of the public; they also need its assistance. That suggests the third of our goals for the future: the consolidation and improvement of public assistance. The purposes of public assistance for the blind are twofold--to provide a floor of material security, and to furnish the incentives to vocational opportunity. Since it is the latter purpose which is the more productive in the long run, let us take a look at the familiar contention that public assistance at its best does not encourage but discourages job efforts by recipients. The basic reply to this shibboleth is, of course, that the experience of blind people as a group has given the lie to it. No doubt there are exceptions; but the cases are few indeed in which a blind person would not greatly improve his financial situation by holding down a job in competitive employment. There is more to it than that, however; blind people are as deeply motivated as any others to fulfill the demands of our way of life by earning their own bread and standing on their own feet--and they are just as frustrated as any others by the lack of opportunity to do so.

Let us admit that there may be some blind persons who would rather remain on public assistance than do a day's work. But before we assume that this passivity reflects mere laziness and lack of character, let us ask whether such an attitude may not disguise a deepseated fear of failure, an acceptance of the antique image of the helpless blind man, a breakdown of confidence and will which bespeaks a prior failure of adjustment and orientation.

this is the kind of fear brought on by years of frustration, idleness and insecurity, which is surely best combatted not by condemning public assistance but by redirecting both the aid program and the energies of the aid recipient toward the goals of self-sufficiency and self-support.

In this struggle to reorient the public assistance programs around productive and progressive goals, the National Federation has been a prime mover. The principle of exempt earnings, long a pillar of our philosophy, has come to be firmly established in federal law. As a result of our persistent and pioneering efforts, every state must now allow a blind recipient to keep the first \$85 he makes without reducing his grant--and for earnings above that amount the grant is reduced by 50¢ per dollar earned until full self-support has been reached. This is perhaps the most important amendment ever made in the public assistance programs of Social Security during the 30-year history of the Act, providing a definite financial incentive to the goals of self-support and self-care officially written into the law eight years ago.

We may note in passing that our leadership on this front, once that of a lonely advance guard opposed and vilified by some of the most prominent agencies in the field, has at long last earned tacit recognition even from our old foes. No less a figure than Dr. Eveline Burns, high-ranking authority of the American Public Welfare Association, has now come out strongly for the very goals and policies for which the Federation has stood, in splendid isolation, for the past three decades. The philosophy of public aid which not long ago was castigated as irresponsible and impracticable has now become acceptable (if not quite official) doctrine at conventions of the nation's welfare officialdom.

There are other constructive developments, as you know, on the public assistance front. Federal law has been changed to protect permanently the Missouri and Pennsylvania programs which, by allowing aid largely without reference to a means test, have set a pattern for a progressive grant program for the blind. Our current legislative program seeks to gain permission for other states to follow this precedent without the loss of federal funds. Again, within the last five years the amount of federal matching funds to the states for aid to the blind has been increased by nine dollars per month; this too has promoted a psychology consistent with job-seeking. But in many states the increase has not been passed on to blind recipients; and only through continued effective

action by our affiliates can we hope to see the intent of Congress realized that such increases are for the benefit not of the state treasury but of the needy blind recipient.

In the midst of this progress an alarming note has been struck by the adoption of the infamous Title XVI--the Social Security Amendment of 1962 which encourages the states to merge blind aid with aid to the aged and disabled. The indiscriminate scrambling of these three dissimilar groups together, in the name of "integration," can only obstruct the actual integration of blind citizens into their community--for the blind are both a smaller group and a distinct one from the standpoint of their welfare needs. The issue is urgent; for the shadow of this ominous title is spreading across the land--as in Illinois, where the axe of Title XVI has fallen upon the blind and their monthly aid grant has already plummeted by more than \$7.50--and as in California and Massachusetts, where the same false pattern of administrative merger has begun to threaten other programs for the blind.

This critical battle must be joined by all of us, nationally and in the states. Every affiliate must fight to prevent its legislature and welfare department from succumbing to the lure of the new title, with its siren provision for an increase in medical care payments. We must recognize that once a state has gone down that road of Title XVI, there is no turning back--it can never again decide to restore any of the three programs as separate categories. Meanwhile the blind of the nation must unite to gain congressional relief--in the form of amendments which will (1) allow the same medical benefits under the old system of separate categories, (2) preserve separate administration and standards for aid to the blind even if the program is transferred to Title XVI, and (3) extend the provision now enjoyed by four states of keeping their blind programs intact under Title XVI by virtue (if it is a virtue) of having a single commission for the blind. We shall need a massive and united effort by the blind people of the states and the nation to win this struggle--but on its outcome depends our independence and survival as a recipient group in welfare.

I have dwelt on the issues of public assistance because of their great and immediate urgency. But in the long run the paramount need of the blind is not so much for social security as for economic opportunity--in a word, for jobs. This has long been the target of our major artillery and strategy; and if we have not yet won the war of full employment for our people we have emerged victorious

from a succession of decisive battles. You all remember the Federation's success over 15 years ago in securing the law which ended discrimination against blind applicants in the civil service and led--through the case of Kletzing v Civil Service Commission-- to the voluntary opening up of the federal civil service to more and more blind applicants. Our latest victory, won with the full cooperation of the civil service commission, is the new law allowing blind employees of the government to hire their own readers, thereby vastly widening the range of positions which the blind may perform as well as easing the burden of their performance. And between these two landmark victories the Federation played an instrumental role in encouraging the use of blind persons as switchboard operators by the federal government, by other agencies and by private industry.

I have alluded several times in the course of this discussion to our relationships with the other agencies, private and public, in the field of blind welfare. It will come as no surprise to you who know our organizational history that point number five in our six-point agenda for the future is the persisting problem of effective working relations--nationally and in the states--with these welfare organizations. By and large the agencies for the blind avow much the same set of goals as we do. They too seek educational and employment opportunities, and the reduction of public prejudice and misunderstanding. Yet here precisely is the paradox; for agency personnel themselves are much too often the unwitting victims of the very stereotypes and misconceptions concerning the blind which they are formally organized to wipe out. Only on this hypothesis can we explain the resistance and even hostility of many agencies to the efforts of the organized blind to improve their own lot. Only this can explain the huge expenditures and exertions to shore up the crumbling structures of sheltered workshops and custodial lighthouses whose relation to the goal of independence is plainly negative where it is not wholly destructive. It is not so much that agency workers and administrators are "against" the blind; it is rather that they are often content to be for the blind without the will or willingness to move with them. And that is what we must rekindle and reactivate in these good people: faith in the capacities of the clients whom they serve, faith in themselves as companions and colleagues but not caretakers, and faith in the common cause of all organizations and agencies laboring for the welfare of the blind.

This brings us finally, by a roundabout route, to the sixth and last of the basic policy objectives of the National Federation of the

Blind. It is that of collective action by the blind themselves-- locally, nationally and internationally. During the past quarter of a century, the reforms and advances in programming for the blind have been brought about primarily by organizations of the blind themselves. Others have assisted us; but their assistance has too often been compromised or vitiated by negative attitudes and outright opposition to the tide and titles of our movement. It is the blind themselves who have been most consistent and persistent in pressing for the prerogatives of citizenship and the rights of free men.

That battle is far from won; it rages many fronts and at all levels of organization and opposition. The pressure must be maintained nationally, at the center of federal power and legislation; and we shall continue in the future as in the past to exert that positive pressure at all the key points of the federal system. But because of the very nature of the federal union in which we live, to be effective we must take action at the state level. Some of the affiliates most successful in legislation have been very small; but the appeal of the blind is not to power nor to passion but to logic and good sense. Our numbers are modest and our voting potential scarcely imposing; but the battle, as Patrick Henry observed, is not always to the strong--it is also to the vigilant and the righteous. Our cause is just and our case reasonable; and when our views have been clearly set forth to the lawmakers, they have generally been heard with sympathy and frequently acted upon with favor.

All state organizations should take action in the legislative arena to promote job opportunities for the blind; and the first step toward this end is to establish a legislative program. Although some states have made substantial progress with only a small number of actively participating members, it remains true that the greater the number of those committed to the effort, the greater the chances of success. Moreover, the development of a dynamic program will draw active blind persons into the organization-- and coupled with intelligent public information it can galvanize community energies behind the movement. The experience of a generation has demonstrated that once a clearcut and progressive program has been formulated and broadcast by an alert and united organization of blind people, there is little on earth or beneath it that can stay it from success.

Let us remind ourselves, finally, that it is not merely organization that we celebrate, but self-organization. And it is not self-

organization alone that we affirm, but the self-organization of historically disorganized and dependent persons. The record of almost a quarter century of voluntary association--more, of federation--by the blind men and women of America is a chronicle of struggle. We have taken arms against a sea of troubles--and if we have not ended them, we have made undeniable and unprecedented progress. We have gained enormously in strength, in confidence, in allies, and I believe in wisdom. We are united now as we have not been in many years. If it is too much to say that all our wounds have been healed and all our quarrels reconciled, it is not too much to say that the worst is far behind us--and the best is yet to come. But it will come to us only if we go out to meet it--with confidence in our cause, in our fellows, and in ourselves.

It may be true that they also serve who only stand and wait; but it is equally true that they alone win who move forward and work together. Let us then get on with our great work.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF BLIND INAUGURATED

The world's blind people are joining hands across the seas in an historic attempt to bring their combined talents and resources to bear upon the solution of common problems.

The International Federation of the Blind, a new and unprecedented organization representing nations in various parts of the world, was officially inaugurated July 30 in New York City at a charter meeting of delegates and prospective members.

Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, founder and longtime leader of the U. S. National Federation of the Blind, was unanimously elected president of the IFB. Rienzi Alagiyawanna of Ceylon was named first vice president, and Dr. Fatima Shah of Pakistan was chosen as second vice president. Additional officers and members of the executive committee will be selected in the near future.

Present at the founding convocation were delegates from India, France, Malaysia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Ceylon, Pakistan and the United States. Representatives of blind organizations in numerous other countries were also present as observers and

expressed their desire to join the IFB following formal approval by their national groups.

Preliminary steps toward formation of the global federation, whose membership is restricted to organizations of the blind, had been taken earlier in the month during the Phoenix convention of the National Federation. At a special meeting held following the convention banquet, the Federation's many foreign guests resolved to proceed with the establishment of a world organization of blind people and named a provisional committee to carry out the decision.

Leaders of the International Federation have emphasized that the all-blind organization does not seek to rival or replace the already-existing World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, regarded as predominantly an association of social agencies in the field of work for the blind.

It is anticipated that the International Federation will strengthen and supplement the WCWB's valuable functions of facilitating exchange of technical information and co-ordinating the work of agencies in various countries, in addition to bringing to bear the united efforts of organized blind groups throughout the world in programs of direct action toward the improvement of their own condition.

The inauguration of the worldwide blind federation drew prominent attention from newspapers across the country, largely through publication of an Associated Press feature interview with President tenBroek.

The news agency dispatch from New York City said that "the blind are uniting in a world federation to show that the blind can lead the blind," and quoted Dr. tenBroek as saying "the blind of the world ought to speak for themselves on their problems."

The newly-elected IFB president added that the world federation "will formulate solutions and propose them to various governments."

"One point he has been pressing is a sweeping 'reorganization of public assistance so as to take the blind off relief, put them into employment and do away with custodial institutions,' " the AB said.

"Dr. tenBroek objects to the traditional attitudes of treating

the blind as incompetent to determine or administer their own affairs. This, he said, "is one of the bitterest pills we have to swallow."

"The aim, he said, is to prove that if the blind lead the blind, both shall not fall into the ditch."

PREAMBLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND CONSTITUTION SETS GOALS

(Editor's Note: The following is the preamble and statement of purposes adopted as part of the Constitution of the International Federation of the Blind.)

The International Federation of the Blind is the blind people of the world speaking for themselves--acting in concert for their mutual advancement and more effective participation in the affairs of their respective nations.

The International Federation of the Blind is an organization of the blind of all nations, operated by the blind of all nations, for the blind of all nations. It is an educational and fraternal association, nonprofit and nonpolitical in character, dedicated solely to serving the common needs and aspirations of blind men and women everywhere in the world.

We join in this common cause to:

Cooperate with the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind in achieving its objective of providing the means of consultation between organizations of and for the blind in different countries.

Encourage self-organization and self-determination by blind people in all countries through their own voluntary associations, joined together in turn by membership in the International Federation.

Serve as a world assembly for meetings, communication and interchange among blind persons of all nationalities, toward the end of reinforcing their confidence in themselves, in each other, and in their common cause.

Provide a forum for collective self-expression and discussion by the blind of the world, and to act as the articulate voice for their joint decisions and common objectives.

Work for the progressive improvement and modernization, throughout the world, of public policies and practices governing the education, health, welfare, rehabilitation and employment of the blind.

Disseminate accurate information, increase knowledge and promote enlightened attitudes on the part of the peoples of the world toward blind persons.

Solicit the support of national governments everywhere for the programs and policies of the organized world blind, and advise and assist those governments in their implementation.

Furnish a beacon for the underprivileged and disadvantaged blind people of the earth--and create a potent symbol through which blind people everywhere seek the rights and opportunities that are the birthright of all men.

Stand as living proof to the essential normality, equality, and capability of blind men and women as first-class citizens of the world as well as of their individual nations.

MONITOR MINIATURES

Sarah Telson, totally blind, is employed at the United Nations as a professional assistant in the rehabilitation unit, Bureau of Social Affairs. ... The annual state convention of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts will be held on September 26 and 27 at the Lawrence Holiday Inn, Lawrence, Massachusetts. ... Cheaply made foreign brooms imported from Mexico and Iron Curtain countries are given as the justification for protective legislation currently before Congress. In the last year, according to V. C. Struve, vice president and general manager of the Deshler Broom Factory, Inc., five million brooms have been imported, nearly one fifth of the American corn broom usage. Two hundred American broom factories have closed their doors since 1960. (Extension of remarks of Hon. Ralph F. Beermann of Nebraska, House of Representatives, Congressional Record, July 2, 1964.) ...

Among the nineteen projects receiving a total of \$1.5 million from a new program of federal research grants, the American Speech and Hearing Association in Washington, D. C. receives \$28,295 to survey all speech and hearing facilities in the United States to determine current practices and needs for research in important aspects of hearing aid evaluation procedures. . . . The Kentucky Federation of the blind has begun the publication in mimeographed form of a news bulletin. Those interested should contact R. E. Whitehead, president, P. O. Box 1375, Louisville, Kentucky 40201. . . . The 1964 state convention of the Kentucky Federation of the Blind will be held at the Kentucky Hotel in Louisville on September 17, 18, and 19. . . . Taking office in September are the newly-elected officers of the Associated Blind of Greater Lawrence, Massachusetts: Victor Jedrey, president; William Kolenda, vice president; Josephine Benoit, recording secretary; Dominic Fiato, corresponding secretary; Shaban Numan, financial secretary; John Borrelli, treasurer; Paul Lasonde and Mario Sapienza, members of the executive board.

During his visit to Missouri following the NFB Phoenix convention, Rienzi Alagiyawanna, our blind visitor from Ceylon, met with former President Truman at the Truman Library in Independence. Rienzi presented him with an ancient book from a buddhist temple written on palm leaves. Mr. Truman was delighted and after examining the work, decided it was of such high value that it should be placed in the Missouri University library in order that language students might have the privilege of studying it. . . . Robert Russell, blind associate professor of English at Franklin Marshall College, is author of an article in the August issue of the Atlantic Monthly entitled "Pike Fishing by Bell." Mr. Russell reports on how a blind man learns how to go out fishing alone in a boat on the St. Lawrence River, having rigged up a bell system to guide his direction and distance from shore. . . . Hope for diabetes victims has been symbolized by the June opening of a new world center for diabetes research in Boston. The million-dollar research laboratory, jointly directed by the Harvard Medical School and the Diabetes Foundation, Inc., will investigate causes and cures for the disease which is one of the nation's leading causes of blindness. . . .

Hubert Smock, long active in the Iowa Association of the Blind, suffered a severe heart attack in early June at his Iowa City home, according to a report in the I. A. B. BULLETIN. Smock had served for five years as a home teacher with the Iowa Commission for the

Blind, and was a state delegate in 1959 to the National Federation convention at Santa Fe. . . . A new Veterans Administration facility presently being built in the District of Columbia will be named the Melvin J. Maas Memorial Hospital if a pending bill is passed by Congress. Major General Maas was chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped for 10 years until his death in April of this year. . . . A 12-year-old blind boy from Virginia Beach, Stephen Damon, will be among those taking part in the annual All-American Soap Box Derby this year, reports LISTEN, in a car he himself has built and equipped with a radio-operated helmet to receive directions on the way down the hill. . . .

A blind New York City businessman, operator of a telephone marketing firm and a new firm designed to manage conventions for organizations, was the subject recently of a syndicated "Life Begins at Forty" newspaper column published across the country. He is Al Sperber, who lost his sight eight years ago from detached retinas. . . . Ed (Strangler) Lewis, famed pro wrestling champion of a generation ago, has become blind for the second time in his life, according to a NEW YORK TIMES report. Now 75, the former athletic great was first blinded by trachoma at the height of his career, regained sight after several years, and again became blind in 1961 after 30 years of recovered vision. . . . Robert Rodriquez, a blind student at New York City College, has made "A" grades in all but three of his 29 courses at the college over the past three years, according to LISTEN. He plans to go on for a Ph.D. at Georgetown University and a career in the foreign policy field. . . .

Bob Whitehead, energetic president of the Kentucky Federation of the Blind, has been appointed by Governor Breathitt as a member of a statewide advisory committee on problems of the blind. . . . The Kentucky NEWS BULLETIN reports that the Howe Press has now acquired electronic IBM equipment similar to that being used in Louisville to speed the brailleing process. . . . According to an article in the Chicago TRIBUNE, Dr. Peter Putnam has reported that a survey of blind college students (based on a sample of 1,000) indicates an average grade of B or better, higher than the national average for all college students. . . . The annual reunion of the Alumni Association of Kentucky's School for the Blind, held in June, elected Nina Coyle as president. . . .

A bill to provide free air transportation for anyone acting as a guide for a blind person was unanimously passed by the U. S.

House of Representatives August 13. Sponsored by California Congressman J. Arthur Younger, the bill was suggested by a former Pacific Airlines captain, who had been shot through the eyes by a gunman at the Chico (California) airport four years ago, according to the San Francisco CHRONICLE. ... Lee A. Iverson has resigned as head of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School as of August 6, reports Bill Klontz, secretary of the Iowa Association of the Blind. No successor has yet been chosen for the school post. Iverson reportedly will take a new position in Illinois as administrator of five schools for children, including the Illinois Braille and Sight Saving School and the Illinois School for the Deaf. ...

Scientific news and information concerning America's space program is now available to legally blind persons with the publication of Selections from NASA Facts, 1962, in one volume press-braille. Copies of the braille edition may be obtained on loan from regional libraries for the blind, or purchased for 80 cents a copy from American Printing House for the Blind, 1839 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky. ... Luci Baines Johnson, the President's youngest daughter, has a part-time summer job helping a Washington optometrist with the visual training of patients. The teenager was reported by the Associated Press to be a patient herself since discovery that she "had a real eye problem that was impeding her reading." ...

Columbia University's Teachers College has announced the reinstatement of its program for the preparation of professional personnel in education of the blind and partially seeing. Study programs lead to the degrees of master of arts, doctor of philosophy, doctor of education and Teachers College professional diplomas. ... Mrs. Gertrude Suskind, a veteran of 34 years' service in education of the partially seeing, retired recently from her association with the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, THE NEW OUTLOOK reports. ...

An electric computer, worth \$2,000,000 was donated recently to the American Printing House for the Blind. The computer, a gift from International Business Machines Corporation, will translate inkprint into braille at the rate of more than 1,000 words a minute. ... For those blind persons who prefer the labeling method to shaking, smelling or tasting, a label-making machine is available from the Dymo Industries of Berkeley. The letter wheel on this machine contains both the letters of the alphabet and their matching braille symbols, so that a blind person can operate it by touch and a sighted person can use it to print braille labels.

The machine weighs eighteen ounces and can be purchased by a blind person at cost, \$29.00 and the tape costs 70 cents for a twelve-foot roll. ...

Robert Mahoney, a blind legislator from Michigan, said he has purchased a hunting license in order to emphasize the need for support of his bill to require inexperienced hunters to take a short course in gun safety before they can obtain licenses. ... The first Orthodox Jewish Prayer Book, issued in English and Hebrew Braille--containing daily, Sabbath and festival prayers--is now available at the Jewish Braille Institute, 48 E. 74th Street, New York City. The prayer books will be distributed to Jewish blind persons throughout the U.S., Canada, Israel, and other nations.

According to a notice in the National Braille Club's BULLETIN, telephone credit cards are now available in braille from most telephone companies. Also U. S. individual income tax return form 1040, with instructions, and form 1040A, are available in press-braille at the regional libraries for the blind. Order directly from the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky. The price of form 1040 is \$2.20 and form 1040A, (short form) 40 cents.

Douglas C. MacFarland, until recently director of the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped, has been appointed as chief of the Division of Services to the Blind of the Federal Rehabilitation Administration. MacFarland succeeds Lou Rives, who has been appointed to head up an agency-wide planning unit in VRA.

LEGISLATIVE FLASH

On August 18 the Senate Finance Committee amended H. R. 9393 to extend the exemption of income and resources needed for a plan of self-support for blind aid recipients from one year to three years. Concurrence by the full Senate and House is anticipated.

The committee turned down an amendment by Senator Hardke which would have made federal medical care matching funds available for aid to the blind programs that are not under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, which would be equal to those now available under Title XVI. It is believed that Senator Hardke is considering

offering the same amendment on the floor of the Senate.

It is reliably reported that Senator Russell Long of Louisiana will offer an amendment to the Social Security bill on the Senate floor which will increase grants for aid to the blind and other categories by \$5.00 per month of federal funds with a condition that the states pass on the entire amount to aid recipients.

The resolution establishing October 15 as annual White Cane Safety Day has passed the House of Representatives and is reported to have favorable chances of passing the Senate before the Congress adjourns.

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

INKPRINT EDITION

VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



The National Federation of the Blind is not an organization speaking for the blind--it is the blind speaking for themselves

N. F. B. Headquarters
2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, Calif.

OCTOBER ISSUE - - - 1964

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

Published monthly in braille and distributed free to the blind by the National Federation of the Blind, President Russell Kletzing, 2341 Cortez Lane, Sacramento 25, California.

Inkprint edition produced and distributed by the National Federation of the Blind, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

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OCTOBER 1964

MONITOR TAPE EDITION AVAILABLE

The tape edition of the BRAILLE MONITOR is now available upon request. Arrangements for the taping have been made by Gwen Rittgers and Cotton Busby through the cooperation of the Kansas City Association of the Blind. The reading is being carried out by Gwen Rittgers.

Ways and Means for the Blind, of Augusta, Georgia, is providing the equipment, tapes and mailing containers to assist this project of the National Federation.

In order to obtain the tape edition, send your name and address to the Berkeley office of the National Federation of the Blind, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley, California 94708.

THE WORLD COUNCIL AND THE WORLD CHALLENGE

By
Russell Kletzing

(Editor's note: Mr. Kletzing is president of the National Federation of the Blind.)

"The Problems of the Blind in a Changing World" was the announced theme of the 1964 General Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind (a convention held every five years,) which met in New York City in the closing days of July. At the end of the two-week-long meeting the consensus of the delegates representing genuine organizations of the blind was clear: the challenge posed by the convention theme had not been met, and the overriding problems of the blind in a changing world were not adequately confronted by the world agency designed for their welfare.

The World Council's assembly, held at the Statler Hilton Hotel, was composed preponderantly of representatives from agencies for the blind throughout the world. Of approximately 90 delegate votes, according to figures announced by the Secretary-General, about 56 represented agencies and 34 represented organizations of the blind--a ratio of eight agency delegates for every five from the organized blind. Five out of six U.S. delegates, for example, were agency spokesmen--with Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, the delegate of the National Federation of the Blind, as the sole representative of this country's organized blind. Likewise five of

the six English delegates were agency employees, and both Australian delegates were also from agencies--even though the latter country has a vigorous organization of the blind.

The same story was repeated for many other nations. Moreover, a number of the delegates from organizations of the blind revealed unmistakable fear of agency reprisal when the pressure was on. In marked contrast was the German bloc, where all six delegates spoke for organizations of the blind who are in substantial control of nearly all work for the blind in their country.

Within the agency group that predominates in the World Council, control rests with an Anglo-American entente. The American Foundation the American Foundation for Overseas Blind, and the Foundation's captive organization, the American Association of Workers for the Blind controlled four of the six American votes. Great Britain--with cooperation induced by old empire loyalties, by hopes for future financial contributions, and by a common agency bond--controls agency delegates from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Ceylon, Malaysia, and a host of other countries. Other agency delegates are inclined to vote with the leadership, based apparently on the distrust so prevalent within the agencies of any organization made up of blind people themselves.

The facts of the World Council convention are simple; the real story lies in the undercurrent. Colonel E. A. Baker, president since the formation of the WCWB in 1951, relinquished the presidency to Eric Boulter of the American Foundation for Overseas Blind--leaving Robert Barnett, the American Foundation's director, still in effective control of the president's office. Baker, along with Kingsley Dassanaik of Ceylon and Sir Clutha MacKenzie of New Zealand, were elected to newly created positions as honorary members. However, the petition filed by Dr. Fatima Shah and five other delegates nominating Dr. Isabelle Grant for honorary membership was not even brought to the floor for consideration.

Although in general the British-American leadership of the World Council held a firm hand, several representatives of the organized blind of developing countries were elected to the executive committee. Dr. tenBroek himself, though defeated by American agency votes, received a surprisingly large number of ballots for a membership-at-large on the executive committee.

Two of the assembly sessions were held in the United Nations building, with the rest at the Statler Hilton. During all the sessions those attending were provided with earphones which, through UN-style simul-

taneous translation, gave either English or French versions of all presentations at the choice of the listener.

The major part of the convention was devoted to the presentation of learned papers expressing the philosophy and practices of agencies for the blind from various parts of the world. Among the topics discussed --with discussion limited almost exclusively to delegates--were: the social impact of blindness; modern approaches to financial assistance to the blind; providing employment for the blind; the problems of the aging blind; the problems of blind people with multiple handicaps; and technological developments in work for the blind. One of the convention's outstanding papers was an analysis of the causes, extent and distribution of blindness throughout the world, by John F. Wilson, executive director of Great Britain's Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind. The latest cassette-style talking books developed in England and the status of library services in our own country, were also items of considerable interest.

We Americans, sometimes to our sorrow, are chauvinistically accustomed to thinking that our ways of doing things are the best in the world. By the end of the World Council Meeting, it was only too evident that we are far behind many European countries in work for the blind. Germany, England, Italy and a half a dozen other European countries have not only substantially more complete social security programs for the blind, but (far more important) they have placed a substantially higher percentage of blind people in competitive industries than we have in the United States. Although we have much to contribute to developing countries, we also have much to learn from those who have outstripped us.

A dramatic highlight of the convention--one definitely unplanned by the leadership--came with the election of Dr. tenBroek by the delegates to a place on the resolutions committee, although the leadership had refrained from nominating him. This episode occurred after Dr. tenBroek rose from the floor to question the announced intention of the chairman (Colonel Baker) to appoint committees which everyone had supposed were elective. Caught by surprise, the leadership was forced to allow elections from the floor--thereby permitting the election of a number of independent-minded delegates from organizations of the blind to positions on various committees.

The resolution which Dr. tenBroek subsequently drafted on Financial Assistance to the Blind (reprinted immediately following this article) is the most concise and brilliant statement of Federation philosophy on this subject so far produced; and its merit was open acknowledged even by such members of the Anglo-American leadership entente as Secretary-

General John Jarvis and England's John Wilson.

An indication of the "hard line" taken by agencies throughout the world, and their desire to maintain control of the World Council, was provided by their negative action on a constitutional amendment proposed by Dr. tenBroek which would require at least half of any delegation from a country possessing an organization of the blind to be representatives of the organized blind. This equalitarian amendment could only muster 15 votes against the agency steamroller.

In addition to the moderate gains achieved in seating representatives of the organized blind on the executive committee, some progress was made by the World Council through unanimous adoption of another resolution, also authored by Dr. tenBroek, endorsing the principle of independent organization of blind people. The obvious and unassailable merit of the principle of self-organization of the blind overcame the obvious reluctance of some of the agency leadership, particularly Robert Barnett, and produced a unanimous vote for the proposition that "the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind adopts a policy of encouraging the development of independent organizations of the blind throughout the world." Though the fact was never officially discussed on the floor of the General Assembly, nearly all delegates were well aware that simultaneously the International Federation of the Blind had been formed to provide a means of representation of the organized blind of the world.

Assessment of the World Council's General Assembly should take the form of constructive analysis. Although the WCWB is now dominated by old-line agencies for the blind across the world, it is moving grudgingly toward the democratic principle of greater representation for the organized blind. Moreover, it is a worthwhile organization performing a useful function.

The World Council provides a forum for the exchange of considered approaches to work for the blind among agency representatives engaged in such work throughout the world. However, while the organization can be made more representative and more effective, it is clear that with general assembly meetings scheduled only five years or more apart the pace is likely to be glacially slow.

Nevertheless the very theme of the convention brought to the forefront the challenge of the blind in a changing world--for they cannot and will not wait for natural evolution and reluctant gradualism to meet their problems. The inauguration of the new International Federation of the Blind--at the very same time as the World Council's convention--repre-

sents an organized awareness of this challenge and a concerted determination to meet it.

Millions of blind people in Africa, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and a host of other developed or developing countries are today living hopeless lives of beggary or worse. If their lot is not soon improved, their plight of misery and degradation will loom as one more critical chink in the armor of western-style democracy--a fact to be exploited by dictatorships of all shades throughout the world. Only decisive and direct action on a massive scale can begin the tremendous process of starting these blind millions on the road to fully productive lives. It is a lesson of contemporary history that the blind of the world are the people --in fact the only people-- who can supply the spark, the excitement, and the enthusiasm necessary to kindle the fires of progress toward the ultimate social and economic salvation of the world's blind populations.

It is an awesome task; but the International Federation of the Blind, supported by our own National Federation and by increasing numbers of independent blind people the world over, has organized to get it done.

A RESOLUTION ON FINANCIAL AID TO THE BLIND

(Editor's note: The following resolution, authored by Dr. Jacobus tenBroek and approved by the resolutions committee on the 1964 General Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, depicts a model program for aid to the blind on the part of countries throughout the world --a program, incidentally, not yet achieved in most parts of the United States.)

The attention of member nations and of all other nations is called to the urgency of providing financial assistance to blind persons in need thereof.

Programs of financial assistance should be addressed to the over-all objectives of dignity, of economic independence and social interdependence as well as of meeting the elementary needs of subsistence and health. The items of need and the standard of assistance should commensurate with the habits of life and the social and economic patterns of the community.

In the achievement and implementation of this over-all objective the

following general principles should be given recognition:

(1) The financial assistance to the individual should be sufficient to cover: (a) common human needs for food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance and family life; (b) needs common to all members of the group arising out of or relating to blindness including additional expenses incurred in daily living and the cost of technical aids and appliances developed for the use of blind persons; (c) the additional special needs of individuals.

(2) The amount of financial assistance to the individual under categories 1(a) and 1(b) should be a specified minimum determined on a basis of group needs rather than on a basis of individual needs and the means test. The amount of assistance in category 1(c) should be individually determined on the basis of the special needs of the individual.

(3) Under the plan of financial assistance, blind persons should be helped out of distress and not merely in it. Accordingly, pauperization should not be a condition of the grant. Eligible persons should be allowed to retain resources and income useful in the process of rehabilitation gaining self-support. The plan of financial assistance should be adapted to rehabilitation and employment, to self-care and self-support. This should be done through the provision of incentives, such as permitting the recipient to retain some of the rewards of effort and activity, rather than through the use of compulsion, reduction of the grant, or increasing hardships.

(4) A self-reliant spirit and independent activity should be encouraged by preserving to the individual freedom in the management of his own affairs including living arrangements, choice of consumption items, occupational objectives and leisure-time activities.

(5) The conditions of eligibility and the terms of administration of financial aid should be clearly specified in the basic legislation so that administrators, social workers, and recipients may know their rights, duties, and relationships.

(6) Blindness is a distinct disability, different in its nature and in its social consequences from other physical disabilities, from old age, or from the condition of dependent children. Just as the substantive provisions of the financial aid plan should take account of this fact, so should the administration. The extent feasible, persons should be employed to carry out the plan who are knowledgeable about the special problems of the blind.

("This resolution is recommended for adoption by a unanimous vote of the Resolutions Committee. ")

IMPENDING BREAKTHROUGH ON DISABILITY INSURANCE

One of the Federation's greatest potential victories in many years hangs in the balance, as this is written, before a joint conference committee of the Senate and House.

The tense situation results from the successful effort of Senator Hubert Humphrey (now Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate) to gain acceptance of the Federation's proposals for disability insurance reforms as an amendment to the Administration's social security bill (H. R. 11865)

The disability proposals, originally contained in the Federation-sponsored Senate bill, S. 1268, were adopted unanimously by the Senate--but their ultimate fate rests with the impending action of the Senate-House conference committee. The character of the proposed changes, and the urgent need for them, have been eloquently stated by Senator Humphrey in a Senate speech of September 3.

"My amendment would liberalize the federal disability insurance program for persons who are now blind--and, perhaps of greater importance, it would make disability insurance payments more readily available to more persons who become blind at the time when blindness occurs," the Senator said.

He noted that the proposal would (1) incorporate the generally used definition of blindness into the provisions of the disability insurance law; (2) make it possible for a blind person who has worked in a social-security covered employment for six quarters (a year and a half) to qualify for disability cash benefits, and (3) it would allow qualified blind persons "to draw disability benefits, and to continue to draw them, as long as they remain blind--and irrespective of their income or earnings, if they are fortunate enough to be employed."

In his speech Senator Humphrey pointed out that "under present law, a person who is blind and unable to secure social security covered work for five years, cannot qualify for disability insurance payments. Reducing the present requirement from 20 to six quarters would be a much more reasonable and realistic requirement for people who, though often-

times well qualified for gainful work, will encounter much difficulty in obtaining any work at all.

"Under existing law, a worker who becomes blind but has not worked for five years in covered employment is denied the sustaining support of disability insurance payments at a time when the whole world has collapsed, when disaster has terminated his earnings and diminished his earning power, and he is faced with surrendering dignity and self-pride and applying for public or private charity--hardly a sound basis upon which to rebuild a shattered life, hardly the basis for instilling self-confidence and reviving hope--so essential as the first step in rehabilitation and restoration to normal life and productive livelihood."

The Minnesota lawmaker declared that "under existing law, a person who is blind and earns but the meagerest of income, is denied disability insurance payments on the ground that even the meagerest earnings indicate such a person is not disabled--or sufficiently disabled in the eyes of the law--to qualify for disability payments.

"As a matter of fact, the economic consequences of blindness exist, and continue to exist, even though a blind person is employed and earning, and these economic consequences are expensive to the blind person who has the will and the courage to compete in a profession or business with sighted people, who must live and work in a society structured for sighted people," he said.

"Adoption of this amendment would provide a minimum floor of financial security to the person who must live and work without sight, who must pay a price in dollars and cents for wanting and daring to function in equality with sighted men," Senator Humphrey concluded.

BROTHERHOOD'S "MONEY-MAKING" SCHEME APPROVED

Whatever its difficulties in fund raising, the American Brotherhood for the Blind is on the way to "making money" in virtually unlimited amounts. And what is more, the scheme to "counterfeit" U.S. coins has the full approval of the Treasury Department.

It all began with a recent proposal by the producers of Twin Vision Books--a Brotherhood project of children's books combining print and Braille--to include raised illustrations in their volumes.

Among the many items to be illustrated were various denominations of coins--the illustrations to be made from actual coins pasted to a master

sheet to be used in a vacuum plastic forming machine.

It was quickly realized by Mrs. Jean Dyon Norris, founder and director of Twin Vision Books, that the reproduction of U.S. coins might run afoul of federal laws governing the counterfeit manufacture of currency. And, when clearance was sought from the Treasury Department, it looked at first as if the educational and philanthropic project would have to be scrapped. The federal authorities turned thumbs down, and the non-profit Brotherhood (which distributes its books free to the blind) felt itself suspiciously regarded as a slick counterfeiting ring.

Convinced of the educational importance as well as the legitimate character of their proposal, however, Mrs. Norris and Dr. Jacobus tenBroek, the Brotherhood's president, persisted in their campaign for official clearance. That approval came in mid-July, in the form of a letter from the Treasury Department stating its authoritative opinion that "the proposal to produce illustrations of coins on plastic sheets would not be in violation of any existing statute."

And so at last, as Mrs. Norris puts it, "we are free to start turning out money of our own--in book form, of course!"

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER

By
Russell Kletzing

(Editor's note: The following is revised from an article by Mr. Kletzing published in the COSERV Newsletter, Fall, 1964.)

The summer is over and I am sorry--and this is passing strange for a resident of torrid Sacramento. The reason is that our international visitors from all over the world have returned to their countries and their work. The visit of these dynamic blind leaders represented one of the most exciting and stimulating experiences in my life and the lives of many Federationists. Most arrived in time for our Phoenix convention and stayed through the World Council General Assembly in New York. In between, they visited institutions and agencies for the blind as well as organizations of the blind.

Most of all, however, these blind leaders were people with individual and stimulating personalities. There was Rienzi Alagiyawanna, President of the Ceylon Association of the Blind, elected as first vice-president of the International Federation of the Blind in acknowledgment of his brilliant leadership ability. There were Suresh Ahuja and Dr. Rajendra Vyas, leaders of the organized blind in India--Suresh with his captivating western-style personality and the suave diplomacy of Lyndon Johnson, and Rajendra, the accomplished attorney and scholar who most ably discharged the duties of the resolutions committee chairman at the World Council

Lucy Ching, social worker in a Center for the Blind in Hong Kong, organized the Blind Friends of Hong Kong only a few months ago after her contact with Dr. Isabelle Grant. It has grown in this short time to 110 members. She says that her invitation by the National Federation to come to the United States in itself has done much to encourage families to bring their blind members out of back rooms and into Hong Kong's social life, because of the recognition it implies. That the hopes of the blind of this teaming metropolis are pinned on Lucy is evidenced by the more than 500 blind people who came to the Hong Kong airport to see her off.

Lee Ah Kow, too, is of Chinese ancestry, but lives in strife-torn Malaysia. His newly organized Selangor Society of the Blind is fighting the classical struggle against unrelenting agency opposition. Ah Kow stayed at our home in Sacramento and occupies a special niche with us.

There was Tim Fuery from Queensland, Australia, solid as a rock in his convictions and giving one of the best talks at the Phoenix Convention; and there was Hugh Jeffrey, President of the Australia Blind and his vivacious wife Alison, who travelled about more than any other of our international guests. There were Jagdish Patel and Bhadra, his wife, officers in the Indian Blindmen's Association from another area--more reserved but among the staunchest supporters of the International Federation. There was Hee Yong Yang, attractive proof reader from the Braille Library in Seoul, Korea, who graduated from a law school in that city with a straight A average and hopes, after legal studies in this country, to become the first blind lawyer in her native land. And then there was Fatima Shah--!

As all of you know by now, these were some of the people who helped to form the International Federation of the Blind at Phoenix. They told us of the problems of the millions of uneducated, unproductive

blind people in the Eastern world, and let us know that they were ready to fight to better their desperate plight. They participated fully both in the social life and the business sessions of the convention. Those who were lucky enough to be delegates to the World Council Meeting worked hard for international federationism and to liberalize and democratize the World Council itself. Their visits with federationists included affiliates in Niagra Falls and Albany, New York; Springfield, Massachusetts; Philadelphia; Denver; Dallas; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Virginia; New Hampshire; Kansas City; Louisville; Idaho; Iowa; Montana; Washington, D. C. and the Capitol Chapter in Sacramento. The response everywhere was "What wonderful people! We fell in love with them." All but a few were able to spend a highly rewarding period at the Orientation Center of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, where Ken Jernigan and his staff introduced them to high state officials and showed them by example how this center works. Nearly all our visitors hope to emulate to some degree what they felt to be the most outstanding orientation center for the blind in the world.

Everyone of these dynamic people has a fascinating story, but I cannot tell them all. The choice is difficult, but Dr. Fatima Shah's is surely one of the most interesting. Fatima, until 6 years ago, was a highly successful obstetrician and gynecologist in Karachi, Pakistan. Her graduate medical work in London has given her a splendid command of English. After she lost her sight however, she did little but raise her two daughters until--she met Dr. Isabelle Grant. As with countless other blind people, Isabelle kindled the spark which stimulated Fatima to help to organize the Pakistan Association of the Blind and become its President.

Her efforts to come to the Phoenix Convention are a saga all in themselves. Although a delegate to the World Council, by mysterious inadvertence her name was omitted by agency personnel from the list to come to this country. Never having travelled alone, even in Pakistan, she hoped to come with her younger daughter, who had just finished college. Just the day before her departure, however, an emergency appendectomy deprived her of this travelling companion. Her efforts to get to Phoenix on time included keeping the banks open on Saturday, fighting irrational restrictions of international airlines, dodging around a major typhoon, and travelling day and night. But she was not to be denied, and she arrived in time for her talk to the convention and to participate in its last two days.

After Phoenix, she surveyed institutions for the blind in the Los Angeles area, and was one of the international guests at a meeting of

more than 100 members of the Active Blind, Inc., a Federation chapter. She also participated in a panel on "Conditions of the Blind in the Pacific" at the UCLA Medical School. The Orientation Center in Des Moines, however, stimulated a real awakening of life, hope, and determination. She resolved to use her professional background to take up work in family planning in Pakistan, where national officials recognize overpopulation due to the high birth rate as one of their most serious problems. She is now receiving more orientation training at Des Moines and a refresher course in planned parenthood procedures.

Ruth and I came to know Fatima best during our overnight journey by train to Springfield, Massachusetts to attend a meeting of the blind from many parts of that State. To say that Fatima captivated her audience would be the grossest of understatements. Her real leadership ability was acknowledged by her election as second vice-president of the IFB.

Although I am sorry the summer is over, it is clear to me that it is the harbinger of even greater things to come as we move forward with the building of the International Federation of the Blind--the new spokesman of all of the blind of the world.

MEDICARE GAINS NEW STRENGTH

Supporters of medical for the aged under social security--a program clearly beneficial to older blind persons as well--have been heartened by the recent Senate adoption (by a vote of 49 to 44) of a modified version of the Administration's medicare bill.

Although predictions currently are not favorable for final enactment of a medicare bill in the present session of Congress, it still has at least a fighting chance. The bill is now pending before a Senate-House conference committee, with final action expected shortly.

One of several stimulating panel discussions during the Phoenix convention of the National Federation involved a searching analysis of the medicare proposals. The following is a summary of views favoring medicare which were presented at the panel session:

In the "war on poverty" officially begun by the Johnson Administration, one of the most important bastions to be conquered is that involving adequate medical care--a salient thus far largely ignored. For

instance, the average public assistance medical care vendor payment is about nine dollars a month per recipient, generally covering only doctors' visits and drugs. The Medical Assistance for the Aged program (Kerr-Mills bill) is operative in only 41 of the 50 states and involves a rigid means test, varying in harshness from state to state.

The American people today are spending an estimated 33 billion dollars annually on medical care, as against only 14 billion spend in 1950. Health insurance pays only 56 per cent of the private hospital bills incurred; and one authority estimates that by 1970, just six years away, a hospital stay will cost an average of \$100 per day, plus the surgeon's fee.

Thus the exorbitant costs of adequate medical care place it out of the reach of retired and disabled Americans--the very persons most in need of attention. They are forced to denude themselves of any small savings accumulated in a lifetime of work, to drain the reserves of their children, and still to wind up destitute in the charity wards of our county hospitals.

Society must therefore assume its responsibility by providing decent medical care through a mandatory insurance system under the Social Security Act. That which retired and disabled Americans need most is full medical care coverage on the insurance principle: hospitalization, doctors' services, drugs and nursing home care. The King-Anderson bill, the Administration's "medicare" proposal, would provide up to 90 days' hospitalization and 180 days' nursing home care, plus some out-patient services. While this bill itself is a weak and partial answer to the desperate needs of the aged and disabled, those of us who have witnessed the painfully slow evolution of the Social Security system over the past generation must be prepared to accept any medical care coverage under that Act as at least a small and hopeful beginning.

A GREAT IDAHO CONVENTION

The Gem State Blind staged one of its most successful conventions in history, at Boise on August 21 to 23.

The social program included coffee on the Capital lawn, swimming at Givens Hot Springs, and a cook-out pancake breakfast. An outstanding job was done on publicity, with more than half a dozen radio and

TV interviews plus full newspaper coverage of the convention.

A constructive tone was set early in the meeting when the Eastern Chapter of the Gem State Blind was readmitted to become the third Chapter in Idaho. One week prior to the convention, the Eastern Chapter had voted unanimously to request reaffiliation.

NFB President, Russell Kletzing gave a stirring address at the Friday night banquet entitled "The Voice of Unity." His speech pointed to the rekindling of federationism throughout the country, and urged federationists to rededicate themselves to this great crusade which is now undergoing a rebirth.

The highlight of the convention was the participation of Miss Lucy Ching, president of the Blind Friends of Hong Kong and supervisor of a center for the blind in that city. Miss Ching told vividly of the conditions of the blind in Hong Kong and of the help desperately needed to develop useful and productive lives for these citizens.

After nearly a year of careful planning by the GSB's Executive Board under legislative chairman Rulon Jensen, an 11-point legislative program was fully discussed and adopted by the convention, as follows: (1) To expand and revitalize the home teacher program; (2) to establish a minimum public assistance floor-to-relief aid program for the blind similar to the law in Nevada; (3) to reintroduce Senate Bill 100 to permit taking of fish and game by proxy for the blind; (4) activate the vending stand program as authorized by the Randolph-Sheppard Act; (5) establish a revolving loan fund for the blind to start a business or occupation; (6) restore the State Sight Conservation and Prevention of Blindness program; (7) to reintroduce the merit system bill for employment of the blind; (8) to provide for reimbursement to school districts for qualified teachers and equipment for blind students in the public schools; (9) modernize the White Cane Law and include guide dogs under its coverage; (10) further investigate and take necessary steps so that the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration will be able to pay advanced registration fees for college and university students; (11) investigate possible telephone rate reductions.

Editor's note: Since the Idaho convention, a meeting of the legislative committee of the Gem State Blind has been scheduled with Governor Smiley to review the organization's legislative program.

THE LOIS BOLTIN STORY: A NEW CHAPTER

By Donald C. Capps

(Editor's note: Mr. Capps, second vice president of the National Federation of the Blind, is also president of South Carolina's Aurora Club of the Blind and editor of its official publication, THE PALMETTO AURORAN.)

In June of 1959, Auroran Lois Boltin made history when she became the first blind person in South Carolina to secure employment as a braille PBX switchboard operator. For five years or until May 9, 1964, Lois capitalized on this golden opportunity, performing her switchboard duties with a Columbia dress shop in an expert fashion. The store's officers repeatedly stated that Lois was by far the best switchboard operator the firm had ever employed.

This outstanding performance record was the result of the excellent training Lois had received at the Minneapolis Center for the Blind. It is doubtful that Lois would have ever taken this training except for the fact she attended the annual convention of the National Federation of the Blind in 1956 at San Francisco, where for the first time she saw a braille switchboard which immediately gained her interest and fascination.

Unfortunately, Lois's employer made a drastic reduction in its telephone operation a few months ago, which resulted in eliminating the switchboard--and its operator with it. At this point many a blind person would have lapsed into despair; nor could Lois have been blamed had this happened, for she still remembered that it had taken six months to secure her first switchboard position.

However, Lois Boltin is not an average person. She immediately went into action, contacting Aurora Club leaders whom she knew would assist in any way possible to secure another switchboard position. Things change a great deal in five years, and it was found necessary to secure an up-to-date list of employers with switchboards in the Columbia area. As in the past, telephone company officials cooperated by promptly furnishing this information.

No less than thirty contacts were made with employers over a two-month period. Although assisted by Aurora people in these contacts, Lois personally followed through on every prospect, and it was her patience, perseverance, and persistence which led to the landing of another switchboard position on July 31, 1964. Seibels Bruce and

Company, a large insurance firm, was favorably impressed with Lois from the first time she entered their office in mid-June. Following several subsequent conferences, including contacts with telephone company officials who gave an unqualified recommendation, Lois received the heart-warming news that she had been officially hired.

For a second time, an enlightened Columbia employer had given a courageous and talented blind lady an opportunity to earn her own way, which is all she wants or needs from anyone. However, this was not the first time that the Aurora Club of the Blind had been supported by Seibels Bruce, the civic-minded firm had previously contributed to the erection of the Aurora Center, as well as to White Cane Week, and was familiar with the work and program of the Aurora Club.

The new switchboard position has several advantages over Lois's former job. Chief among these is a twenty per cent increase in salary and shorter working hours. The location is also perfect, being only one half block from Lois's residence. In addition to operating the switchboard, Lois will also serve as receptionist.

And so another chapter of the Lois Boltin story, which has already received wide attention in publications throughout the nation, has unfolded to revive the admiration of all who are genuinely interested in the cause of the blind. Her remarkable story would not have had so happy an ending were it not for the faith and determination of one plucky blind girl, coupled with the unwavering support of the organized blind of her state.

CASH AWARDS FOR BLIND AUTHORS

Awards totalling \$200 will be given annually to blind authors and readers of DIALOGUE, recorded magazine for the blind, as the result of an endowment made by Ways and Means for the Blind of Augusta, Georgia, it has been announced by Don O. Nold, executive-secretary and editor of the publication.

"These awards will be made in the memory of Walter G. Holmes, a Tennessee newspaper man, who, in his lifetime, was exceedingly helpful to the blind," commented Nold in announcing the grant. "It was through his efforts that a grant of more than one-half million dollars was made by Matilda Ziegler to establish a magazine in Braille and it has been publishing a monthly edition for more than 40 years."

DIALOGUE has received this grant because of the desire of Hubert Smith, founder of Ways and Means for the Blind, to encourage blind persons to enter the writing profession. Fifty dollars will be awarded with each of the quartely editions, totaling \$200 in all. The \$50 will be divided as follows: \$25 for the best short story; \$15 for the best piece of non-fiction; and \$10 for the best poem. A committee of judges will soon be named to select the winning literary efforts. Only legally blind persons are eligible to compete for the awards.

Persons wishing to submit short stories of not more than 3500 words, non-fiction of not more than 1500 words, or poetry should send them to Literary award editor, Dialogue Publications, Inc., 3206 Grove Avenue, Berwyn, Illinois. No material will be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope and sufficient postage.

MONITOR MINIATURES

The Progressive Blind of Missouri plans a packed program of speeches and panels at its third annual convention November 13 through 15 at Kansas City's Aladdin Hotel.... The Alabama Federation of the Blind will hold its annual convention at the Whitley Hotel in Montgomery on October 9 and 10, with the National Federation's second vice-president, Donald Capps, as principal banquet speaker.

NEWSWEEK Magazine is now being recorded weekly on two sides of two long-playing discs by the American Printing House for the Blind, Frankfort, Kentucky. Copies are reportedly mailed promptly to blind individuals, schools and circulating libraries, with limits set only by available funds.... THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL is now available in braille at a subscription price to the blind of five dollars per year. A total of 125 copies are mailed to the Library of Congress each month by Philadelphia's Volunteer Service for the Blind, which transcribes the magazine for use in 10 foreign countries along with all 50 of our states.

George Cohen of Montreal, Canada, totally blind, is a public relations officer, fashion writer, and adviser to Canadian dress designers and hair dressers.... The National Association of the Physically Handicapped has re-elected Marilyn W. Woods as national president at the groups annual convention in Detroit.... Experiments on a reading machine for the blind are being conducted at Stanford University--in the form of a small mechanism comprised of photoelectric cells which transmit

the shape of each letter to a set of reeds which vibrate distinctively to the touch....

Thomas G. Bell has been named executive director of the Colorado Department of Public Welfare, succeeding John A. Dunn, who was acting director since Guy R. Justis resigned the post to become director of the American Public Welfare Association.... Delaware's Department of Public Welfare also has a new director: John E. Hiland Jr., a former Wisconsin welfare official who succeeds Miss E. Kathryn Pennypacker. "Christmas and the Year Ahead," a braille book published every year for blind children by the Braille Institute of America (Los Angeles) appeared in August under the editorship of Jean Kentle with a total of 100 pages of stories and poems geared to the interests of third to sixth-graders....

A blind woman of 65, her blind daughter and the latter's two children were evicted from a Washington D. C., apartment in August, according to a news story prominently featured by the WASHINGTON POST. The two blind women, Irene Stevenson and her daughter Bernice, were reportedly unable to meet the \$82.50 monthly rental on a combined welfare income of \$148.00 a month....

The Service Committee for the Blind, 935 North Sycamore, Lansing Michigan, offers for sale an aluminum folding cane--white, red-tipped, with a gold anodized handle, weighing about seven ounces, reportedly available in any length with either a straight or curved handle. Information and prices on request.... South Carolina's Aurora Club, statewide affiliate of the N.F.B., reports its most profitable White Cane Week campaign to date. Held last May, the fund raising week netted more than \$2,000, representing a 20 per cent increase over 1963....

While attending the WCWB meeting in New York City, President Russ Kletzing met with many Federation groups in the area. A safari to Albany was climaxed by a meeting of the Tri-City Council of the Blind and the Glen Falls Chapter at which Kletzing and Miss Lucy Ching from Hong Kong both spoke. The Springfield Chapter arranged a similar meeting attended by representatives of a majority of the member chapters of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts at which Kletzing and Dr. Fatima Shah shared the speaking duties. In a conference and discussion session, President Kletzing also met with representatives of the Empire State's Affiliates in the New York City area, the Tri-Burrough Chapter, the Brooklyn Chapter, the Staten Island Chapter, and ESAB president, Dominic DiJohn. Russ Kletzing's final journey was to Philadelphia accompanied by Dr. tenBroek and Lee Ah Kow, President of the Selangor Society of the Blind in Malaysia. Many of the

Chapters of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind were represented at the Philadelphia meeting.

Clovernook Printing House for the Blind, 6990 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231, is able to provide 60 lb. Kraft paper suitable for use with a slate and stylus. It is approximately the same weight as the paper on which the braille edition of this magazine is printed but with a less glossy texture. 400 sheets are sent in a package for \$2.00. The paper is letter size, $8\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches....

The main theme these days of the Maryland Citizens Committee for Police Relations, under the chairmanship of Dr. Leon Robert Saiontz (who has written a poem on the theme) is "To encourage the Blind and help build up their morale." Says Clarice Arnold: "We are pleased and proud that a group of humanitarians such as this have expressed a willingness, backed by ability, to assist our cause in any way possible."

A staunch Federationist and an equally staunch pro Federationist have triumphed in recent political elections. Perrin D. McElroy, an active member of the Progressive Blind of Missouri, won the democratic primary in his bid for reelection as Public Administrator of Jackson County, Missouri by a substantial margin of more than 8,000 votes. George Rittgers, PBM president, was area chairman in the campaign. Representative Walter S. Baring of Nevada, long-time champion of Federation legislative measures, also won the democratic primary on the road to re-election to his seat in Congress.

Frank H. Kells, Executive Director of the Sacramento Society for the Blind, has accepted the directorship of the Center for the Blind in Phoenix, Arizona, effective November 1....

Rienzi Alagiyawanna and the International Federation of the Blind both received national recognition when Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana included an account of Rienzi's visit to Kansas City in the Congressional Record for August 19. After having read the Braille Monitor, Senator Hartke also told in his own words the story of the inauguration of the International Federation of the Blind at Phoenix under the inspiration of Dr. tenBroek.

The welfare achievements of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, under its dedicated director Kenneth Jernigan (also the NFB's first vice-president) were eulogized recently in a U.S. Senate speech by Senator Jack Miller of Iowa. Calling attention to an Associated Press article on the Iowa visit by Dr. Fatima Shah of Pakistan and Rienzi

Alagiyawanna of Ceylon, the senator pointed out that the article "emphasizes the pioneering work of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, an agency which is known around the world."

Among the distinguished blind visitors from abroad who were feted by Federationists this summer were two directors of the Braille Library of Japan: Kazuo Jonma and Yoshinori Kato. While in Kentucky, along with Hong Kong's Lucy Ching and others, the two Japanese dignitaries were guests of the Kentucky Federation's president Robert Whitehead on a tour of the American Printing House for the Blind and various state facilities for welfare and education of the sightless....

In a recent edict on federal employment of the handicapped, President Johnson called on the heads of all executive departments and agencies to "open the door of employment opportunity to handicapped but occupationally qualified persons" by a combination of retraining employees, re-engineering of jobs, and "dealing with the handicapped on the basis of ability and fair play."....

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE BLIND IN THE COMPUTER FIELD

By

Dr. Theodore D. Sterling

Director

Medical Computing Center

University of Cincinnati, Ohio

(From Data Processing Digest, May 1964)

With comments by Russell Kletzing

Computers have opened new opportunities for the blind in many professional areas including all levels of programing. Although a number of blind are already employed successfully in computer related fields, the professional outlets in this area are new. Not only are computer users unfamiliar with the potentials of the blind but neither the blind nor individuals who direct their rehabilitation are aware of the new opportunities that exist. Recognizing the many problems that arise now in facilitating the training and placing of blind in related professions, the Association for Computing Machinery has formed a committee to deal with the education of blind, rehabilitation workers, and computer users. This committee consists of representatives of ACM, the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, the Na-

tional Institutes of Health, Offices of State Divisions of Rehabilitation, and of a number of technically knowledgeable individuals in engineering, computing, and rehabilitation.

The involvement of the ACM as a professional group in this venture is motivated by three factors which combine to open an exciting new area of activity for the blind as well as computer users.

1. The blind appear to be especially suited for computer work.
2. Technical problems preventing the blind from independent work on computers have been solved.
3. There are few if any consistent professional activities for the intelligent blind.

The special facility of the blind for programing lies in the intense self training they must undergo and the rigorous demands made of them constantly by the environment which they must be able to meet. A blind who is able to consider independent professional activity has obtained a mastery over his environment rooted in

- a. a superbly trained and organized memory
- b. a well developed spatial orientation
- c. the ability to keep in mind and act upon a carefully designed plan of action in any situation.

These are obviously qualities that make for a good programmer. The memory training becomes useful in learning rapidly many different computer languages. The spatial orientation transfers easily to orienting within the core memory especially with respect to the many possible directions in which the program may move statements and data. The constant planning of all daily activities enables the blind to keep in mind simultaneously all aspects of the program flow when developing any of its specific parts. All these factors combine to make the blind fast, accurate, and economical programmers.

Because of their trained aptitudes, a number of blind have drifted into programing work almost from the beginning of computer utilization. However, they were always dependent on help from sighted colleagues in de-bugging and other necessary activities. As long as this dependence existed the blind could not hope to gain entry into industrial computer work. This was true not so much because they tied down a sighted programmer and thus became expensive to employ (although this certainly is a factor) but mainly because an acute shortage exists of programmers in general. Also it is questionable if programing can be very efficient if the programmer can not explore intermediate printouts, listings, and memory dumps at leisure.

Work done at the Medical Computing Center at the University of Cincinnati has largely removed obstacles that prevent independent access of the blind to all phases of computer work. The major development was the invention of a technique by which a readable braille is produced directly from the high speed printer without any modifications. The program has been written for the IBM 1401 but may be translated for any other machine.

A standard printer (such as the IBM 1403) may be used with no modification. The braille thus produced is slightly larger and a little different from standard braille but quite readable.

Grade I braille is used entirely because programing material does not lend itself to the shorthand characteristics of Grade II. Special punctuation symbols have been devised for the particular purposes of programing.

In addition to the brailler, a number of other aids have been developed. These are a card reader, a console reader, and special paper for preparing programs for punching by a clerk. All these techniques make the blind programmer completely independent in his work.

Now that technical problems are eliminated and the desirability of attracting the blind into computer work is recognized, it remains to deal with the employment opportunities of the intelligent blind.

Although a great deal of effort has been expended in the past to develop skills for them, intelligent blind have had difficulty in finding satisfactory employment. With the phenomenal development of computer applications in many business, technical, and scientific fields the way is opened to utilize suitably the small segment of our population that has been prevented from useful activity by their sensory deprivation. For instance it is difficult for a blind accountant to find a job. On the other hand, a blind accountant who can develop and supervise computer based procedures is in no way handicapped and becomes a desirable employee. The same is true in many other fields already and will increasingly be the case as time goes on.

The work and future plans of the ACM Committee on the Blind can be understood best against this background. Rehabilitation people are worlds away from computer work. Not only must they be educated in computing but facilities for training must be established. The latter needs the cooperation of existing computer installations and of the mem-

bers of the profession. Similarly education within the profession is needed for placing of blind trainees. Finally there are related matters of computer application to the ability of the blind to negotiate in our world that rightly fall within the province of the committee. Foremost of these is the modification of the short hand version of braille (Braille II) so that easier computer translation and formatting are possible. The committee hopes to accomplish all of its primary aims within the next five years.

COMMENTS

Dr. Sterling's article represents a combination of insight and misconception concerning the blind--but curiously both are directed toward the constructive goal of promoting job opportunities in Computing Programming for blind persons. Illustrating misconceptions involved is the third of Dr. Sterling's premises for guiding the blind into computer work: "There are few if any consistent professional activities for the intelligent blind." Although it is desperately important to open up more professional opportunities for the blind, it is surely not accurate to say that there are "few if any" such opportunities.

There are also "positive" misconceptions woven through the article. The concept of the "outstanding blind person" with the highly developed memory which compensates for his lack of vision appears to have influenced the author. Unfortunately, in our history this has been coupled with the concept that all other blind people who are "not remarkable" are absolutely incapable.

When misconceptions are working for us--or used to open up job opportunities--I would not propose to fight about them. I would venture however, that the fact of the matter is that a blind person would do about as well in the computer field as a sighted person with equivalent intelligence and aptitude--probably neither better nor worse. In any case, this is a new field that all young blind men and women should examine with a view to their futures.

R.K.

THE SNARE OF THE SINGLE FARE

By
Lawrence Marcelino

From the California Council Bulletin

Apropos of the resolution adopted by the 1964 convention of the National Federation of the Blind in opposition to a legislative bill pending before the United States Congress to permit a blind person to travel with his guide as an air line passenger for a single fare, the following incident is cited: A self-employed blind lady who resides in San Francisco traveled alone to Portland, visited friends there, then took a Great Northern Railway train which took her into the State of Washington where she visited friends in a number of cities, including Seattle. On June 8, 1964, the lady went to the ticket window of the Great Northern Railway to procure her seat reservation so that she could return to San Francisco. Upon being asked for the reservation the clerk left the window and soon returned with another man who was identified by the blind lady's friend as the station master. The latter asked the lady if her friend was also going to San Francisco. He was told that she was not. He then stated that blind persons are not permitted to travel without guides. He stated that it is a company rule that blind persons may not travel alone on Great Northern trains.

The blind woman stood her ground, however, pointing out that she had purchased her ticket in San Francisco, traveled in the State of Oregon and in various cities in the State of Washington and now wanted to return home to San Francisco. She pointed out that she did not need a guide, did not want one, nor could she afford one. Finally, she was admitted to her car after giving positive assurances that she could manage the trip without a guide.

The two-for-one concession will continue to hurt the blind because it is premised on a false and harmful image of the blind as helpless beings. Incidents such as that described above are becoming more numerous. The right of unfettered movement is a basic one in our country. Extension of the single fare concession will jeopardize it for all blind persons.

CONGRESS AUTHORIZES WHITE CANE DAY

The National Federation of the Blind posted another major victory

on September 24 (as this issue of THE BRAILLE MONITOR was going to press) with passage by the Senate of the long-awaited White Cane Safety Day resolution. Meanwhile, other Federation-sponsored bills were still awaiting final action.

The joint resolution, approved in August by the House of Representatives, authorizes President Johnson to proclaim October 15 every year as "White Cane Safety Day" throughout the country, to be observed with "appropriate ceremonies and activities."

At the time of this writing there was still no report from the joint Senate-House conference committee on the disability insurance bill (S. 1268,) liberalizing disability payments, and the public assistance bill (H. R. 9393) which would extend from 12 to 36 months the present full income exemption for a blind recipient working under an approved plan of rehabilitation.

The congressional break-through on the White Cane climaxed a renewed Federation campaign begun last year at the Philadelphia convention, which endorsed a resolution urging a Presidential proclamation on the issue. Subsequently, in response to requests from federationists in his own state and from the NFB's Washington Chief John F. Nagle, Congressman Robert Corbett of Pennsylvania introduced the resolution into the house as H. J. 753.

Following months of inactivity the White Cane proposal won approval from the House Judiciary Committee and went to the floor where it was passed by voice vote on August 17. In its present form the resolution reads:

"Joint Resolution to authorize the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day. Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives..., That the President is hereby authorized to issue annually a proclamation designating October 15 as White Cane Safety Day and calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

INKPRINT EDITION

VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



The National Federation of the Blind is not an organization speaking for the blind--it is the blind speaking for themselves

N. F. B. Headquarters
2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, Calif.

NOVEMBER ISSUE --- 1964

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

Published monthly in braille and distributed free to the blind by the National Federation of the Blind, President Russell Kletzing, 2341 Cortez Lane, Sacramento 25, California.

Inkprint edition produced and distributed by the National Federation of the Blind, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

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By John Wilson	

NOVEMBER 1964

WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY: A PROCLAMATION

In an historic even which marked the successful climax of years of persistent campaigning by the National Federation of the Blind, President Lyndon B. Johnson last month proclaimed October 15 of each year as National White Cane Safety Day. The Presidential proclamation follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY 1964

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

A white cane in our society has become one of the symbols of a blind person's ability to come and go on his own. Its use has promoted courtesy and special consideration for the blind on our streets and highways. To make our people more fully aware of the meaning of the white cane, and of the need for motorists to exercise special care for the blind persons who carry it, Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 6, 1964, has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1964, as White Cane Safety Day.

I urge civic and service organizations, schools, public bodies, and the media of public information to join in this observance with appropriate activities designed to promote continuing awareness of the significance of the white cane to blind persons.

I call upon all our citizens to make every effort to promote the safety and welfare of our blind persons on the streets and highways, and thereby to contribute to their independence of spirit and their capability for self-management.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this sixth day of October in the

year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-ninth.

(SEAL)

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

By the President:
DEAN RUSK

Secretary of State

THE NFB: TRAIL-BLAZER IN WELFARE

By
Russell Kletzing

In 1964 the Economic Opportunity Act--better known as the anti-poverty bill of the Johnson Administration--became the law of the land. Title VII of this bill provides that the income of persons receiving payments under the Youth and Community Action Programs of the law shall be exempt in the amount of \$85 a month, plus 50 percent of income in excess of \$85, insofar as all public assistance payments are concerned. Title VII also provides that such exempt income shall not be treated as income to any other person for public assistance purposes. It is noteworthy that the exemption of income in the war-on-poverty law were lifted almost bodily from Titles X and XI of the Social Security Act governing public assistance for the blind.

When in 1948 the NFB first secured the passage by Congress of a provision for \$50 a month of exempt earned income, the bill was promptly vetoed by President Truman because of the bitter opposition of the Social Security Administration--which regarded the proposal as wildly radical and threatening to the time-dishonored means test (whose cornerstone is the counting of each penny even unto the third and fourth generations.) But the National Federation, convinced that the principle of exempt income was the only sound way of creating an incentive for recipients of aid to the blind to strive for self-support, again went to the Congress with its proposal in 1950. This time the measure with its \$50 exemption was enacted into law.

However, the Social Security administrators held that such income

was not exempt insofar as other members of the blind recipient's family were concerned if they also received some type of public assistance. Consequently, it was necessary for the NFB to request Congress in 1952 to enact Title XI of the Social Security Act--providing that where earned income has been disregarded for a blind recipient, such income shall not be taken into consideration in determining the need of any other individual receiving any type of public assistance.

In 1960 the NFB succeeded in persuading Congress to increase the amount of exempt earnings from \$50 to \$85 a month, plus one-half of all earned income in excess of \$85. Thus the principle of a sliding scale of exemption was added as a further incentive, since many blind persons (notably those who are self-employed) do not achieve self-support in one big leap but gradually increase their earnings to the point of independence from public assistance.

In 1962 the Federation obtained an amendment requiring the States to exempt additional income and resources (from any source, not just from earnings) for those blind recipients having a plan for self-support, for a period up to 12 months for any given individual. And, finally, in 1964 we have won a further victory with the extension of the 12-month period to 36 months.

Three years ago, in 1962, Congress placed our principle of exempt earned income in Title I of the Social Security Act governing Old Age Assistance, specifying that the first \$10 of earned income plus one-half the balance up to \$40 must be disregarded for Old Age Assistance grants. And now, in 1964, Title VII of the Economic Opportunity Act cements the principle of exempt income into yet another law of the land.

The Federation's struggle to gain national acceptance of the principle of exempt income as a stimulus toward self-support has been long and hard. In the forefront of opposition have been those public welfare theorists who are wedded to the Elizabethan Poor Law concept of a means test--and who feared (correctly) that their bastion would be breached by the establishment in federal law of the principle of exemption of income and other resources. Today, fortunately, the means test has fallen into disrepute with almost everyone: not only with recipients of public assistance but with social workers, legislators, the press and the general public. Yet we still cling in public welfare to the costly and slow procedures of determining eligibility by means of office interviews, collateral calls, letters and other types of investigation, home visits, and the minute search for income and resources on a case-by-case basis. In fact, most of the time of social workers is taken up with this elaborate and exacting investigation. As a con-

sequence there is little time left to provide needed services. Moreover, the one overwhelming by-product of this 'eligibility mill' is its humiliating impact upon clients of public welfare, no matter how kind and considerate individual workers themselves might be in carrying out the onerous process. Although faults and failures aplenty remain to be corrected, tremendous progress has been made through the efforts of the organized blind in perfecting a more adequate program of aid to the blind. It is the blind themselves who have provided the axes and the determination to blaze new frontiers in public assistance, toward which other groups and agencies are now slowly groping. Let us recall what might be termed the "seven pillars of welfare"--seven key principles which have already begun to be implemented in one or more states and which together add up to the goal of a decent and adequate program of public assistance for the blind of our nation:

1. The concept of a presumed minimum need--translated into practice through a "floor" to relief below which aid (plus non-exempt income) cannot go.

2. The repeal of residence and lien laws and the financial responsibility of relatives.

3. The exemption of decent amounts of property and other resources to provide an initial zone of security, as well as further incentives for those able to work toward self-support.

4. An automatic annual increase in the basic amount of aid to reflect increases in the cost of living, and a mandatory "pass-on" provision whereby, whenever the Federal Government increases its contribution to the States to assist in paying for Aid to the Blind, the amount of such increase is immediately and fully reflected in increased grants to recipients.

5. Prompt processing of applications for aid and equally prompt payment of aid to those determined eligible.

6. Such humane and traditionally American principles as confidentiality of records, the right to a fair hearing, liberal construction of the statutes, the provision that no one shall dictate how a recipient shall spend the money granted him, that no recipient shall be designated a pauper, and that all applicants and recipients have the right to inspect records relative to their cases.

7. The principle of exempt income and resources as incentives toward self-support.

These seven basic principles of Federation philosophy have gone far toward fashioning aid to the blind programs into instruments which not only assure a minimum standard of aid but actively help blind persons to decrease their own dependency--physical, social and economic.

Let us continue to point the way, find the paths, and blaze the trails of welfare for all the blind, deprived and disabled of the land.

GLASSES FOR PAKISTAN: KEEP 'EM COMING

By
Isabelle L. D. Grant

A recent letter from the administrator of the CARE program in Lahore, Pakistan, advises of the arrival of still another consignment of eyeglasses for Pakistan. Some braille equipment has also been included in this consignment. As CARE does not deliver packages to individuals as such but only to groups, programs, schools, and agencies, contact was immediately made with me to direct the glasses and equipment to their destination.

Dr. Ibrahim Khan, past president of the Lahore Lions Club, has been notified regarding the glasses. In an interview, Dr. Khan told me of his plan to set aside one day of the week when he would make his clinic available to any person in the economically low bracket, who needed glasses. The glasses would be measured and placed on file in his clinic and then distributed to needy persons according to their visual acuity needs. The other equipment has been redirected to the personnel in the office of education which I shared while I was in Lahore.

This project, like other projects of helping our overseas friends, is a never ending one. Therein lies its joy and its worthwhileness. The more material that is sent, the more people who can be helped. A lift along the way to those people--blind people in particular--who live in the emergent countries of the world, is for them a step along the pathway to self-education and enriched living. To share our substance with others less well provided for is to us a duty and a privilege.

Letters are arriving in numbers from the Middle East, the Far East, and South Asia, for "things to work with,"--things that we take for granted, braille paper, slates, styluses, braille machines, books, braille watches, school material, and typewriters. In the past three weeks, a secondhand braille writer, braille maps, braille books, braille transcription books, a music book, tracing wheels, pocket slates and regular-sized slates all have been sent on their way to young blind boys and girls and to men and women, who know what they need to get where they want to go along the education highway.

The letters are written by individuals, some of whom I have met in my travels, and by others who have heard of the efforts of the blind themselves through the National Federation of the Blind. THE BLIND AMERICAN, and now the BRAILLE MONITOR, passes from hand to hand. We could easily double the number that should be sent, for waiting for one's neighbor to read each issue is a somewhat slow procedure. But it eventually gets around.

Can you imagine my surprise and amusement when it was pointed out to me by a young BLIND AMERICAN reader in Pakistan, that I had misquoted the average income of a Pakistani blind person and so reported in the B.A. I had said that the average income of a blind person who was lucky enough to get a job even in a workshop was one hundred rupees or twenty dollars per month. He told me: "No, seventy rupees, or fourteen dollars, was nearer the figure!"

So the drive for eyeglasses and all kinds of equipment goes on as never before. A reminder about the packing might be in order. Wrap each pair of glasses in separate paper, in order to avoid any possible corrosion with metal in hot and humid places. Pack the glasses if possible in their own eyeglass cases, likewise using paper. Pack the wrapped glasses firmly in strong cartons, medium size cartons for easy handling. Send the cartons to the following address:

C.A.R.E., Inc.
Care of Mack Warehouse, Inc.
Pier 38, Delaware and Queen
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

At the same time, you should write a covering letter to Mr. Weaver manager of the CARE office at that address. We are responsible for the expenses of the transportation to the warehouse. If the chapter finds difficulty in financing the transportation, a local service club might be approached for their assistance in the project. If you wish to send smaller sets of glasses--that is, less than a carton--do not transmit these to the above address but to the following: Mrs. W. Newton, 17059 Burton, Van Nuys, California.

Should you wish to send recent issues of the BRAILLE MONITOR abroad, I shall be glad to furnish you with the address of an English speaking blind person to whom it may be sent. Save the manila envelopes, and on the right-hand corner write:

"Free--Reading Material
for the Blind"

The sender's name should be written on the top left-hand corner of the envelope. Magazines and books sent by postal mail take approximately

six weeks to go to India

For further information on these matters, write to: Dr. Isabelle L.D. Grant, 851 West 40th Place, Los Angeles, California 90037.

WASHINGTON REPORT

By

John F. Nagle

On October 13 President Johnson signed H.R. 9393--thereby converting into law the progressive "Hartke-Federation" amendment extending to 36 months the exemption of all income and resources for blind recipients of public assistance working toward self-support under an approved rehabilitation plan.

This latest victory of the National Federation and Senator Vance Hartke came shortly after approval by the House of Representatives of Senate amendments to the bill. But there is still a catch to it: the new extension, from 12 to 36 months, is "permissive" rather than mandatory and may therefore be implemented or rejected by the states as they choose. It is vital that each affiliate of the NFB exert every effort to persuade its state public welfare agency to take advantage of the new provision with its greatly improved incentive to blind aid recipients to make their way to full rehabilitation and independence.

One other significant triumph, again largely the result of persistent Federation campaigning, came on October 6 with the President's proclamation of White Cane Safety Day. As a result of this action, October 15 of each and every year will be proclaimed by future Presidents as a day of national recognition of the colorful symbol of physical independence and mobility on the part of blind Americans. (The text of President Johnson's proclamation is published elsewhere in this issue.)

Despite these successes, the 88th Congress failed to act affirmatively on other issues of crucial importance to the blind. Millions of elderly men and women, retired on Social Security, must continue to plead for a cot in a charity ward when the need for hospital care overtakes them--all because the forces of retreat and reaction under the leadership of the American Medical Association were successful in blocking the passage of the King-Anderson Medicare bill.

Other victims of this unyielding opposition to enlightened social

legislation were the "Humphrey Amendment" (the Federation's bill liberalizing the disability insurance law for blind persons, which had passed the Senate); the proposed increase in payments to retired and disabled persons and their dependents; and, finally, the projected increase of federal money in public assistance grants to needy blind, aged, and disabled men and women.

Another important measure which failed during the 1964 Congressional session was H.R. 9904 (the Dent bill), which would establish a minimum wage in sheltered workshops in accordance with national wage standards. But it is noteworthy that hearings were held on the workshop issue by a House committee and that much sympathetic interest in the condition of shop workers was aroused.

On another front, the House-approved bill which would allow a sighted guide to travel by air with a blind person for a single fare was not acted upon by the Senate and died with the adjournment of Congress. The failure of this bill (H.R. 8068) to gain congressional approval is in accord with the views expressed by the National Federation in a resolution adopted at last summer's Phoenix convention.

NORMAN HAMER MEMORIAL CONVENTION

"The 11th annual convention of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts was not only an interesting and stimulating one--but also a unique example of the old adage 'the show must go on'" writes our Massachusetts correspondent Rosamond Critchley.

Under the chairmanship of Norman F. Hamer, our first vice-president, convention plans were going forward on schedule when we were all shocked by the news of Norman's sudden death in July. His wife, Bernice, immediately took over and under her capable leadership the whole affair was carried to a successful conclusion. It was held at the Holiday Inn in Lawrence on September 26-27.

This year's theme was: "Should the Blind Lead the Blind?" and on Saturday both sides of this provocative question were explored from many angles. Peter J. Salmon of Brooklyn's Industrial Home for the Blind, and William F. Gallagher of the Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind were among the speakers, and the day was climaxed by a spirited panel discussion. The panel included John Nagle and Miss Helen Cleary, executive director of the Massachusetts Association for the Adult Blind, with Anita O'Shea, A. B. M. past president and mod-

erator.

Featured speaker at the banquet was Father Carroll of the Catholic Guild for All the Blind. At each plate was found a Braille and a print copy of the revised edition of our pamphlet, "What is the Associated Blind of Massachusetts?" This edition is dedicated to the memory of Norman Hamer, who served on the committee to revise the booklet, and has been produced with a fund given in his memory by A. B. M. members and friends.

This year's winner of the Dr. Jacobus tenBroek award was the Greenfield-Athol Association of the Blind, one of our newest chapters, which has made remarkable strides, in the short time since it was organized, in the field of extending help to the blind in its area. This was not the year for election of officers, but new members-at-large on the executive committee, representing the several chapters, were installed.

NEW BLINDNESS PREVENTATIVE FOUND

Loss of sight through bloodclots in the eye, until now almost untreatable, can be prevented by a new substance--called urokinase--which is derived from the human body, it was announced in London recently by Dr. Austin Darragh, medical director of the company which manufactures it.

As reported by VIEWPOINT (August 1964), he said that every year eyesight could be saved in about 2000 cases of secondary hyphaema, a condition brought about by the presence of a blood clot in the eye caused by a bruising blow. About a dozen cases had already been successfully treated in the London area. Urokinase, he said, is an enzyme substance first isolated from human urine by Danish scientists and has the property of dissolving blood clots.

Dr. Darragh showed a film of two operations demonstrating eyes blackened and blinded by blood clotting, changing back to normal, with sight restored in a few minutes. Urokinase was not yet in commercial production in Britain, he said. It was expensive to produce, because of the difficulty of collection and purification of the material, but should become cheaper.

The cost of the amount needed to save an eye was now said to be about \$37.80. The substance could also be used for meningitis and was

expected to be widely used in the future for the condition known as hydrocephalus. Plasmin produced by urokinase could also reduce the number of child deaths due to hyaline disease, a clot of blood in the lungs. At present 6 out of 10 children born with the disease die, he said.

BLIND BRITISH SCHOLAR GAINS HIGH POST

Dr. A.R.N. (Rupert) Cross, famed British legal scholar who has been blind from birth, recently gained added distinction by being elected to one of the most honored academic posts in England--the Vinerian Chair of English Law at Oxford University.

His election is a landmark in personal achievement and social recognition. The Vinerian Chair, founded in 1758, was first occupied by Sir William Blackstone, author of the famous Commentaries. Previous holders of the chair have included many of England's most distinguished scholars, and its reputation and prestige are regarded as second to none in the English-speaking world.

The name of Rupert Cross thus may be added to that expanding roster of blind persons who have attained eminence in the teaching and writing of law. In this country alone that list includes our own Dr. Jacobus tenBroek; T. Munford Boyd, professor of law at the University of Virginia Law School, and Samuel Konefsky, professor of political science at Brooklyn College, New York.

Dr. Cross attended Worcester College for the Blind and graduated in 1935 from Worcester College, Oxford. Since 1945 he has held a succession of university lectureships, culminating with his appointment as university lecturer in the law of evidence at Magdalen College in 1956, and his attainment of the D.C.L. (doctorate in law) in 1958.

In addition to a wide list of notable books and writings in jurisprudence and criminal law, the 51-year-old scholar is a distinguished chess player who captained the Oxford team for four years during his student days. His other activities have included membership on the Council of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and on the Board of Governors of the Worcester College for the Blind. He is currently chairman of the law board at Oxford and a member of the Home Office Committee on Jury Service.

JURY DUTY: TO SERVE OR NOT TO SERVE?

Justice, according to the old adage, is blind. If this is so, should not the blind sit on juries?

At its Delegates' Conference in Edinburgh last June, the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom passed a resolution on jury service for blind persons. They should not be automatically disqualified from jury duty, the resolution declared--and went on to direct the executive council to oppose vigorously any move toward such disqualification.

On the other hand, said the resolution, the council should "recommend that they [blind persons] be given a statutory right to claim exemption."

This is an oddly contradictory doctrine. If blind persons are indeed qualified to serve on juries, then what justification can there be for granting them "a statutory right to claim exemption"? If on the other hand they are not qualified, then they are automatically exempt from service.

On its face, this resolution of the British Federation has all the appearance of a classic case of wishing to have your cake and eat it too. For years the organized blind both in Britain and the U.S., have fought for the right to serve on juries--as a demonstration of their normality and equality. But with rights go responsibilities; there can be little left of the right of blind persons to perform normal public duties if it is accompanied by a certificate of exemption "on grounds of blindness."

Let us hope that our fellow federationists will repair this gap in their logic and return singlemindedly to the good fight for equal rights before the law--and in the jury box. For if it is true that justice is blind (that is, impartial), then the blind have an obligation to be on the side of justice.

THE BRAILLE MONITOR ASKS YOUR SUPPORT

By
Dr. Jacobus tenBroek

The voice of the federated blind--THE BRAILLE MONITOR--needs your support: not only your moral support but your financial support

as well.

Unlike most other magazines, the MONITOR does not accept advertising--and so is denied a common and substantial source of revenue. Nor does it sell subscriptions or levy other charges upon its readers. In both the braille and inkprint editions, your MONITOR is a free gift to you and to all blind persons who request it--up to the limit of our ability to meet the demand.

Unfortunately our financial resources have not kept pace with the large and growing demand for copies. Already there is a heavy backlog of would-be subscribers to whom the MONITOR cannot now be sent--blind men and women who want and need our publication in order to keep abreast of news and information of vital importance to their welfare and well-being.

The cost of the MONITOR for one year is approximately three dollars for the inkprint edition and about six dollars in braille. But the value of this journal to its readers is not to be estimated in dollars.

Will you help us to meet our goal of placing THE BRAILLE MONITOR in the hands of every blind man and woman who wishes to receive it?

No contribution is too small. Send yours to the Editor, THE BRAILLE MONITOR, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley, California 94708.

FONDLING PUPPIES HELD DANGEROUS

Investigations of an animal parasite which can cause serious illness and blindness in human beings are underway by England's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. This action follows the findings of a group of doctors at London's Hospital for Tropical Diseases, whose tests have shown that twenty percent of the cats and dogs in Britain are infested with the parasite.

The doctors tested 300 lost dogs and found that 62 of them had the eggs of the parasitic worm called toxocara canis. Ova of the related toxocara cati were recovered from 40 out of 176 cats. The cats had all been left for a time in animal homes.

The report by the doctors, led by Professor Alan Woodruff, says that when the parasite's eggs are swallowed by man they develop into

larvae and find their way into the liver, lungs, eye, brain and other organs. Human beings are usually infected by fondling infected animals or by handling soil infected by them and putting unwashed fingers into the mouth. Puppies are more commonly infected than adult dogs, and the greatest risk of contracting the disease comes when an infected puppy is brought into a household where there are children.

Altogether, says the report, 100 cases of blindness from toxocara have been reported. Skin tests at the hospital for tropical diseases indicate that several unexplained allergies could be related to toxocariasis. There is still no cure for these infections, and Professor Woodruff and his colleagues warn parents of the danger to children from fondling puppies.

MONITOR MINIATURES

Students at Beaumont School, in Portland, Oregon, have chosen as their student body president a top scholar who is also a Boy Scout, likes ham radio, ping-pong and swimming--and is blind. According to an Associated Press story published across the country, the president-elect is Ben Prows, 13, a seventh-grader.... Gwen Rittgers has sweetened the fund which the Progressive Blind of Missouri is building toward purchase of a braille duplicator for Ceylon by contributing 40 hours of instruction in braille transcribing in exchange for a contribution of \$100.... The Wyoming Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is expanding its coverage in sparsely populated areas of the state by employing qualified women as part-time counsellors....

Hope for restored vision for thousands of blind persons is seen in a newly developed artificial cornea, already used successfully in rabbits and monkeys. Dr. William Stone, Jr., and associates at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary are working on the removable plastic cornea, potentially of help to 90,000 Americans blinded totally or partially by opaque corneas.... The Federal Service Entrance Examination is being given from now through May, 1965, for beginning positions for those with college degress or who will graduate in the current college year. With salaries starting at \$5,000 per year, Jobs available include personnel management, economics and social sciences. Check with your nearest U.S. Civil Service Office or university placement office....

Chicago attorney Burton Kolman and his Seeing Eye dog, Snow, recently completed a seven-week tour of Europe in behalf of the Na-

tional Committee for the Handicapped's people-to-people program.... Marie Bell McCoy, suddenly blinded while on a vacation with her husband, sums up the loss of her sight in Journey Out of Darkness (published by David McKay & Co.) as follows: "The experience of blindness, which at first seemed a narrow and confining cubicle, has proved actually to be the chute which released me into the world of exploration."
....

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Agency) is planning an exhibit for the blind depicting developments of the rocket age--with the NFB's John Nagle as one of their consultants.... The Clovernook Printing House for the Blind, our publisher located at 6990 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati 31, Ohio, sells extra copies of its own braille books in the process of producing them for the Library of Congress. Selling at about the same prices as regular printed books, their titles are available on request....

The Seeing Eye Inc., of Morristown, New Jersey, offers free braille editions of a number of publications in addition to its magazine THE SEEING EYE. They are: Facts About the Seeing Eye, The Importance of Mobility to Blind People and the Potential Need for Dog Guides, and A Brief History of Dog Guides for the Blind.... THE EPISCOPALIAN is now being published in a monthly Talking Book edition. Free subscription may be obtained from Talking Book, The Home Department, Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Avenue, New York, New York 10017....

Bad news for Ohioans is contained in the proposed consolidation of public assistance programs (for aged, blind, disabled, dependent children and poor relief) under strict state supervision, to be recommended to the 1965 state legislature by State Welfare Director, Denver White, with the backing of Governor Rhodes. The move will assertedly eliminate 117 offices now administering single programs.... Electro-Mechanical Consultants of New York City have developed a braille teaching device called the "Audiotact"--which is said to speed self-instruction by having braille symbols appear electronically on the deck of the machine....

Bernard Levin writes from Brighton, Massachusetts: "If every local chapter could have an inkprint copy of the BRAILLE MONITOR each month, the president of each group could choose at least a few articles to have read at each meeting. This could bring to hundreds of blind men and women news of what is really happening throughout the land to their fellow -blind." Southern Illinois University announces establishment of a national information center for recreational pro-

grams of the ill and the handicapped--for the purposes of maintaining a central location for collection and distribution of information, instructional aids and devices in the field of recreation for the handicapped....

The Trenton, New Jersey, Association of the Blind has enlisted the aid of police and the local Chamber of Commerce to "halt misrepresentation of the blind" by telephone solicitors and salesmen, according to a Trenton newspaper story which quoted Robert H. Owens, president of the Association and executive secretary of the Associated Blind of New Jersey.... The Springfield, Massachusetts, UNION reports that "Richard Clark of Athol, and Gene Griswold of Hawley (both blind) have been astounding Franklin County Fair views with games of chess, cribbage, checkers and even poker" in their fair-ground booth sponsored by the Greenfield-Athol Association of the Blind affiliated with the Associated Blind of Massachusetts....

The Reader's Digest is now available in a large print edition (16 point type) published by Xerox Corporation, Grand Central Station, P. O. Box 3300, New York, New York 10017. Each Month's issue consists of two volumes, 11x15 inches and 1/2 inch thick at a cost of \$4.50 per issue or \$25.65 for a six-months subscription.... Clyde Ross has just received the "Handicapped Employee of the Year" award from the Goodyear Aerospace Corporation of Akron, Ohio...

Bibliography for a Blind Graduate Student in the Field of Guidance and Counselling is available on request from the author in inkprint or Braille. Address requests to Isabelle C. Akstens, Periapatologist, Boston College, Graduate School, Chestnut Hill 67, Massachusetts.... Physical Fitness for You by Bonnie Pruden, an industrial exercise consultant, is now available on talking book records. It can be obtained from regional libraries or purchased from the American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York 10011.... A highly specialized research center to study diseases of the cornea is to be established at Columbia University and financed by a 1.6 million dollar grant from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness of the Department of Public Health. Its program is primarily in the area of basic research.

David W. Olsen, presently Superintendent of the Kansas School for the Blind, has been appointed special assistant to Josef G. Kauggman, Principal of the Overbrook School for the Blind. The superintendent of the Kansas School for the Deaf will assume Olsen's duties at the Kansas School for the Blind.... A team of blind Scottish football players, known as the "Glasgow Rovers," has entered another season of

play. Using a ball made of cane, the team has taken on all comers, blind or sighted, and reportedly has never been defeated. Their game, called "Crab Football," is played from a sitting position and is actually a version of soccer....

The main portion (469 pages) of the Warren Commission's Report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy is being recorded for the blind by the Library of Congress, and is expected to be available within two months. The Report's 25-page summary and conclusion also will be published in braille.... Cecil Leon, third vice-president of the Associated Blind of New Jersey, reports in THE BLIND LEADER that only one blind street beggar put in an appearance in Atlantic City this year. The lone mendicant was ordered to leave town or face prosecution...

Associate Justice William E. Powers, 56, of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, recently received the George Washington Medal as "blind father of the year" from the National Fathers Day Committee.... The Eyeball Network, headquartered in Oklahoma City, has changed its name to "The Eye Bank Network" and has added several new stations in various states.... The Royal National Institute for the Blind in London distributed braille copies of the three national parties' election platforms to the blind voters of Britain during the recent political campaign.

Louis Braille, to whom the blind owe their alphabet, was himself blinded at the age of three when the knife slipped as he was cutting leather in his father's shop. By the time he was 15, inspired by a 12-cell dot system used by an artillery officers, Braille had worked out an adaptation that adequately met the needs of the blind.... A blind nun, Sister Marie Madeline, has been named Mother Superior of Our Lady of Hope Convent in Owensboro, Kentucky.... A 12-year-old blind "ham" radio operator, Joseph Renn of San Diego, is credited with obtaining more than 200 pledges of eyes for corneal transplants in an "Eye Will" campaign by a group of ham operators....

Recording for the Blind, Inc., has spent around one million dollars on the purchase and remodeling of a headquarters in New York City, expected to be open for business in November.... Four new members have been appointed to the executive committee of the Associated Blind of New Jersey. They are: Stanley G. Spaide, of Camden; Mrs. Norbert Cifelli, Trenton; Mrs. Anna Rymond, Yardville; Miss Katherine Puglise, Trenton, and Mrs. Arthur Linsinbigler, Jr., Trenton....

Some 48 blind teen-agers from the Perkins School for the Blind

recently "guided" sports car drivers over a 70-mile course near Wakefield, Massachusetts. The youngsters sat beside the drivers and directed them over the route by reading a Braille clue sheet; the drivers were timed precisely and an error by the blind "navigator" could put the car out of the race.... The Washington State Association of the Blind is working on plans to initiate a program of home visits by its members to newly blinded persons to assist them in learning to perform daily tasks about the home....

Although foreign blind students generally do not have the proper playback equipment, Recording For the Blind reports that it is currently serving students in several overseas locations--Hong Kong, Ethiopia, Israel, Lebanon, Scotland, England and the West Indies.... Beverly Gladden notes that a recent visitor to Europe has pointed out that in Germany blind persons wear black arm bands, whereas in France the blind carry white canes as in the U.S. "It makes one wonder about Germany's attitude toward blind citizens," says Bev. "Is this the old symbol of mourning? A black arm band can't be a very good travel aid."....

Bill Stegner, hired in September as an engineer for radio station for KGHM in Brookfield, Missouri, is the only blind person to whom the Federal Communications Commission has issued a permit for such work, according to the Associated Press. Stegner, 26, also works as a disc jockey and sometimes reads commercial and news copy over the air....

A 45-year-old Marine Corps veteran who lost his sight in 1944 while serving with the Third Marine Division at Guam, has been presented with the Achievement Award of the Blinded Veterans Association in recognition of personal accomplishment and participation in community affairs. He is John Hodgin, presently the executive director of Protestant Social Welfare Services in Miami, Florida....

British European Airways has expressed willingness to permit blind persons and their sighted guides to travel on its lines for one fare. The National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom requested this concession "for official journeys." The plan has yet to be approved by the Air Transport Licensing Board of Great Britain....

Dr. Fatima Shah, our distinguished blind visitor from Pakistan, was the subject of two detailed journalistic essays recently. The Des Moines TRIBUNE (September 23, 1964) carried an extended account of her activities in rehabilitation and family planning. PANORAMA, official magazine of the United States Information Agency, drew atten-

tion in a recent issue to Dr. Shah's varied services and future projects on behalf of the blind of Pakistan....

Gregory Kachadoorian, member of the Boston Chapter of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts and a representative in the state legislature, has been appointed chairman of the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts State Division of the Blind.... Mrs. Herbert, a member of the Omaha Association of the Blind, died on October 3 as a result of severe burns incurred in her home in Iowa.... Ray Jensen, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Omaha Association and a longtime member of the National Federation, died on October 1 after a comparatively brief illness.... Jack Swager, president of the Omaha Association who broke his leg last April, has recuperated to the point where he was able to resume his chairmanship of the OAB at its September meeting.

URGENT THREAT TO BLIND CHIROPRACTORS

A recent concerted move on the part of many chiropractic training schools throughout the country to deny blind persons access to their training facilities has aroused an active counter-campaign on the part of the nation's organized blind.

The National Federation of the Blind has urged blind persons in all states to join in a program of action aimed at halting further discrimination by the chiropractic schools against blind students and practicing chiropractors. These actions include:

1--Development of a roster of successful blind chiropractors everywhere in the country. Toward this end, Federationists and other interested persons are requested to send the names and addresses of all blind chiropractors (or as many as possible) in their states and localities. The lists, complete or partial, should be sent immediately to the National Federation of the Blind 2341 Cortez Lane, Sacramento, 25, California.

2--Members of state and local chapters affiliated with the National Federation are requested to present to their meetings the resolution on the issue adopted by the NFB at its 1964 convention, and upon approval of a similar resolution to supply copies to newspapers, radio and TV stations and other news media, urging their cooperation in publicizing this new threat to equal opportunity and normal participation on the part of blind persons.

Text of the NFB convention resolution follows:

RESOLUTION 64--05

Whereas, for many years blind persons have served successfully in the chiropractic profession where they have provided the essential services to meet the health needs of their patients and made significant contributions to the healing arts, and

Whereas, blind practicing chiropractors have earned the respect of their colleagues and merited the trust and confidence of their patients, many of whom have been served over a period of many years; and

Whereas, most chiropractic training schools have initiated the practice of rejecting blind applicants for chiropractic training on the assumption that they are unable to take full advantage of the training program because of increased emphasis on visual aids; and

Whereas, this practice will deny qualified blind persons who have the interest, aptitude and capacity to become successful chiropractors from entering the profession and may tend to discredit those blind individuals who are currently in practice; and

Whereas, California has already enacted legislation which prohibits chiropractic training schools from denying qualified blind persons the opportunity for training, boarding and certification as chiropractors; now therefore

Be it resolved by the National Federation of the Blind in convention assembled this 2nd day of July, 1964, in Phoenix, Arizona, that the American Chiropractic Accreditation Board be requested to institute policies which will assure the admission of qualified blind applicants to training facilities in order to eliminate any discrimination on the basis of blindness; and

Be it further resolved that the National Federation of the Blind authorizes and instructs its officers and staff, and any special committee appointed by the President, to take all appropriate steps necessary to secure admission of qualified blind persons to chiropractic training schools; and

Be it further resolved that the officials and committees of this Federation are authorized and instructed to contact such individuals and organizations as may be of assistance in eliminating barriers to the training, boarding, and certification of blind persons as chiro-

practors on a basis of equality with other candidates; and

Be it further resolved that this organization authorizes and instructs its officers and staff to prepare and secure the introduction of Federal legislation to prohibit discrimination against qualified blind candidates for admission to chiropractic training schools.

Unanimously adopted,
July 2, 1964

ROUND UP OF STATE CONVENTIONS

Kentucky Federation

R.E. (Bob) Whitehead was re-elected as president of the Kentucky Federation of the Blind during the group's convention September 18-19 at Louisville's Kentucky Hotel. The state president's address is 40 University Place, Louisville 40206.

Other Federation officers elected or re-elected are: Mrs. Margaret Bourne, Louisville, first vice-president; John Steele, Henderson, second vice-president; Lloyd Whitmer, Louisville, third vice-president; Mrs. Virginia Loar, Ashland, recording secretary; Mrs. Eloise Becker, Louisville, corresponding secretary, and Harold Reagan, Louisville, treasurer.

Kenneth Jernigan, NFB first vice-president and also director of Iowa's Commission for the Blind, gave the key address before an audience of well over 100 at the banquet, which also honored Mrs. Helen McDaniel, retiring school for the blind teacher, and Glen Shoulders, chairman of the Federation's finance committee.

The convention passed four resolutions calling variously for major expansion of Kentucky's facilities for assisting blind persons. Pat Vice, of Frankfort, was appointed as chairman of the legislative committee and Glen Shoulders was named to head the finance committee.

California Council-

The 30th anniversary of the California Council of the Blind was celebrated October 9-11 at the semi-annual convention of the CCB at

the Hollywood Rossevelt Hotel. Re-elected to another term of leadership was President James McGinnis, 16048 Vanowen, Suite 7, Van Nuys.

In other elections Anthony Mannino was named first vice-president; Jewel Bass, second vice-president; Lawrence Marcellino, secretary, and Sybil Westbrook, treasurer. Members of the Council's board of directors are James Garfield, Charles Galloway, George McCann, and Russell Kletzing.

A highlight of the convention was a panel discussion on legislative prospects, which followed a report by Kletzing. Among key points discussed was the Council's intention to work toward establishment of a guaranteed annual income to recipients of aid to the blind.

"International Federation of the Blind-its Development and Promise" was the subject of another panel discussion.

Alabama Federation

Marked by an atmosphere of enthusiasm and harmony the tenth annual convention of the Alabama Federation of the Blind took place before an audience of more than 100 members on October 9 through 11 at Montgomery's Whitley Hotel.

The convention re-elected for another presidential term Calvin Wooten (30 West 28th Street, Anniston, Alabama). Other officers chosen are: Rogers Smith first vice-president; Charles Delong, second vice-president; Barney Abbott, secretary, and Mrs. Burlie K. Dutton, treasurer.

Donald C. Capps, second vice-president of the National Federation of the Blind, delivered the banquet address. Other convention speakers included Alabama Congressman William Edwards and State Senator Roland Cooper.

Pennsylvania Federation

The Yorktown Hotel, at York Pennsylvania, was the scene on September 12 and 13 for the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Federation of the Blind. Among the many reports heard by delegates gathered from all over the state was a very enthusiastic account by

May Davidow of her trip to the NFB convention at Phoenix.

Among guest speakers at the convention were William Tollen, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Office of Public Assistance; State Senator Robert C. Beers, and Frederick C. Lindberg, director of state rehabilitative and social services.

South Carolina

The eighth annual convention of the South Carolina Aurora Club of the Blind was held the weekend of September 26 and 27 at Charleston's Francis Marion Hotel, with more than 100 in attendance. The highlight of the convention was the banquet, which was addressed by Lt. Governor Robert E. McNair.

The Aurora Service Award, given annually to the sighted person judged to have made the greatest contribution to the blind, was presented to Mr. David Baker, who was highly instrumental in the building of the Aurora Center. The Donald C. Capps Award, established some years ago by Ways and Means for the Blind, Augusta, Georgia, was presented to Aurora State Director, Francis M. Stanton, for his services to the organization. This award is given to the blind person judged to have made the greatest contribution to the State's blind. Dr. Samuel M. Lawton, founder of the Aurora Club 20 years ago, was also presented a silver trophy in recognition of the 20th Anniversary of the Organization.

The following officers were re-elected: President, Donald C. Capps; first vice-president, Mrs. Mildred Kirkland; second vice-president, Mrs. Catherine Morrison; secretary, Marshall Tucker. The new treasurer is Miss Lois Boltin. Board members elected were: from Columbia, Mrs. Mildred Griser, MacDonald Hancock, John W. Potter, Ruby Baughman and W.F. Young. From Charleston, Mrs. Louise Royall, Mrs. Ethel Mills and Mrs. Eva Ward. From Spartanburg, Marvin Derrick, Melvin Jenkins and Gayle Martin.

Nevada Federation

The Nevada Federation of the Blind held its annual convention in Las Vegas on October 13, 14 and 15. U.S. Senator Howard Cannon spoke to the group on the first day. There were 100 persons present

at the banquet which was held in the beautiful new Elks Temple. Congressman Walter Baring spoke. Perry Sundquist, member of the NFB executive committee, delivered the banquet address and also covered in detail Federal legislation being sponsored by the NFB.

The convention decided to sponsor two pieces of legislation in the 1965 session--the abolition of durational residence as a requirement for Aid to the Blind, and the transfer of the administration of Aid to the Blind from the general State Welfare Agency to the Division of Services for the Blind. Audrey Tait was re-elected president, K. O. Knudson was re-elected first vice-president; Cleo Fellers, second vice-president; James Ellis, secretary-treasurer; Lare Kyle, Chaplin. Peggy Stevenson, Jean Savage, Carl Clontz and Jimmy Lee Washington were elected board members. The 1965 state convention will be held in Reno.

THE BLIND IN A CHANGING WORLD

By
John Wilson

(Editor's note: Mr. Wilson is director of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, London. His paper, subtitled "The Extent, Causes and Distribution of Blindness," was presented to the World Assembly of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind, New York, July 31, 1964.)

It is an astonishing fact that, during the five years since this Assembly last met, the world's population has increased by 300 million. In the fourteen days of our conference another four million will be born. The pace is accelerating: by 1975, the world's population will have reached 4,000 million and shortly after the close of this century it should reach 6,000 million. One enthusiastic mathematician has calculated that, if we go on at this rate, by 2,000 A.D. there will be only one square foot of the earth's surface for every individual.

Nobody knows how many blind people there are in the world today. All that is possible is to make an intelligent guess on the statistics which are available, and this was how the World Health Organization, in 1962, produced its minimum estimate of 10 million. To avoid constant repetition, I will use the phrase 'blindness rate' to mean the number of blind people per 100,000 of the general population; thus on the world's present population of 3,200 million, the W.H.O. estimate works out at a blindness rate of 320. That estimate was based on minimum figures

and deliberately ignored the fact that many countries count only the totally blind. If an internationally acceptable definition of blindness had been used, the figure would have been much higher. Throughout most of Asia, a blindness rate of 500 would be more realistic and, in tropical Africa at least 700. I believe that a blindness rate of 450 would be nearer the truth as a world average, and that would give a total of 14 million blind people.

The guess-work becomes even more approximate as we look to the future. Nuclear wars apart, the growth of the general population is reasonably predictable; what is much less certain is our capacity to reduce the proportion of that population which will be blind. It is a race between the mothers and the doctors and, for the present, the mothers are winning. It should however be possible to analyze the main factors which will control the situation and this I will attempt to do.

People are living longer. Today, a twenty-year-old Indian can expect live until he is sixty-three; his father would have been lucky to have lived into his fifties. This lengthening of the span of life is happening over much of the world and must have a considerable effect on the world's blind population because the risk of blindness increases sharply with age.

In Britain, where the general blindness rate is low (207) the rate amongst people over eighty-five is 5,750, a figure which would not be out of place in the worst "river blindness" area. Mainly because of the ageing of the population, the number of blind in Britain has continued to increase at a time when the blindness rate in most other age groups has been progressively reduced; two-thirds of the British blind are now over sixty-five years of age.

This age factor has not yet had its effect on the blindness statistics in most of the countries of Africa and Asia. A recent survey in Northern Rhodesia showed that only 12% of the blind were over sixty years of age. The reasons must be that, previously, only a small fraction of such populations survived into the upper age groups in which cataract and glaucoma are most prevalent. A critical change is now taking place and with each decade in increasing number of Africans and Asians will survive into their sixties and seventies. There is no reason why they should be insulated from the ophthalmic consequences and, indeed, the evidence is that cataract is not only more prevalent in Asian communities but also that it occurs at an earlier age than in the West. In the massive populations concerned, even a small change in the age pattern could have a startling effect on the number of the blind.

But the main reason for the world's population growth is the improved survival rate among children. As a country's health services advance from a primitive to a transitional stage (which is what is happening over much of the world at present) the death rate per thousand of children under four years drops from about 250 to 70. This is the force which has detonated the population explosion and it has already produced astonishing results. In India, there are 170 million children below fourteen (38% of the population); in Ghana it is 40%; in Mexico 41%. Every day, throughout the world, 300,000 children are likely to be born and their chance of survival is spectacularly better than ever before. As they themselves reach the age of parenthood the growth of the population will accelerate from arithmetical to, geometrical progression. This is the age group which most concerns workers for the blind and the question which we must ask is what fraction of this exploding child population will be blind.

At the time of the Oslo Conference, by the simple process of totalling the figures returned by the various countries and by using them to strike an average for countries which did not make returns, I estimated that the minimum number of blind children of school age was 660,000. Much has happened since 1957 and it now looks as though the figures on which that estimate was based were in many cases too low. The Government of India, for example, has recently estimated that there are 400,000 blind children in that country. This seems an incredible figure but, whilst in New Delhi last year, I had the benefit of seeing some of the samples on which it was based and they are most impressive. There is too little information to justify an international estimate, but it is a chilling thought that, even if the world's blindness rate amongst children were no higher than the present level in the United States (and it must obviously be much higher), there would today be more than 600,000 blind children in the world.

As health services improve, child blindness decreases, but the big question is whether the reduction will be fast enough. In a predictable period of years, the number of children in the world will double; unless, during that same period, the blindness rate amongst children halves, the total number will not fall. Put another way, unless we are as efficient at preventing the causes of blindness as we are at preventing the causes of death, the position will get worse. We have to gallop in order to stand still.

In countries with advanced medical services there is good reason for optimism. In England in 1962, the blindness rate amongst children was 21. Despite a steady increase in the general birth rate, the number of blind children has continued to fall and is now lower than ever.

The same is true of other countries with a similar standard of medical services. One disturbing fact is that blindness from hereditary causes is assuming greater significance. Children with these conditions have a better chance of survival nowadays and, if they not only survive but become parents, they will cast a long shadow into the future. However, that problem is being energetically tackled and it is reasonable to expect that in the advanced countries the number of blind children will continue to decline though the proportion with secondary handicaps will increase.

But what happens in such countries can have only a marginal effect on the world picture. Nearly three-quarters of the world's population lives in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and it is in those areas that the critical equation will work itself out.

In such countries, not only is the population growing more swiftly but the blindness rate amongst children is much higher. In India, if we accept the Ministry of Education's estimate, the rate is 235. Surveys indicate that in areas where 80% of the population has trachoma--and that is fairly common in Africa and the Near East--1% of the children will probably be blind. This figure has recently been recorded in a survey in Southern Arabia. In the Luapula Valley of Northern Rhodesia (though fortunately this is a freak figure) it was found that 82% of the blind lost their sight in the first ten years of life. If such figures were projected into the next few generations the result would be appalling, but we need not take such a pessimistic view.

Some of the causes of infant mortality, notably smallpox, are also major causes of child blindness and their control is an unmixed blessing. Trachoma, conjunctivitis, measles, gonorrhoea and leprosy can now be controlled and, if we have the will to match our skill, a great reduction can be made in these giant diseases which have destroyed the eyes of children from the beginning of human history; but, as these giants dwindle, it is becoming increasingly evident that the centre of the stage will still be dominated by the massive spectre of malnutrition.

During the past three years, consultants of the World Health Organization have made an international survey of xerophthalmia, the eye condition associated with vitamin A deficiency. In its advanced form, keratomalacia, this is a direct cause of blindness, but by far the most serious effect of vitamin deficiency is that it predisposes children, particularly in the months immediately after weaning, to blindness from causes which would not destroy a well-nourished eye. The report of the W.H.O. consultants is a grim document; it shows, with a mass of supporting evidence, that this is a major health problem throughout the

world, being particularly serious in the highly populous areas of Asia, Africa and Latin America. In Dacca, a city with half a million inhabitants, two eye hospitals in a single year recorded 259 children blinded by keratomalacia. In Indonesia, where xerophthalmia is one of the most prevalent maladies amongst infants, it was found that 8% of children with this condition had lesions which would cause blindness.

The Food and Agricultural Organization has estimated that about a third of the world's population lives on a diet chronically deficient in protein and essential vitamins. In such communities, the blindness rate is usually high, but it would be much higher were it not for the fact that children with keratomalacia often die. In Indonesia, it was observed that about half the children with xerophthalmia die in the first few years of life; the death rate amongst children with keratomalacia is probably even higher--one authority put it at 80%. Today, however, it is often possible for emergency treatment to save the life, though not the sight, of such children. This is a most welcome advance but, in the massive populations concerned even a modest improvement in the survival rate could cause a startling increase in the number of blind children.

The conclusion seems to be that, unless nutrition can be improved or the ocular effects of malnutrition controlled, the blindness rate amongst children over much of the world will not fall below the critical figure necessary to balance population growth. Experiments are being made with the use of massive doses of Vitamin A, but the only sure answer is a permanent improvement in diet. This is a task for agriculturalists, Community Development workers, and teachers and perhaps, as Dr. Cicely Williams has said, the problem will be solved only when a different view prevails of the value of child life.

Control of trachoma and river blindness (onchocerciasis) is now as much an administrative as a medical problem. Techniques of prevention will doubtless continue to improve, but already any country which is determined to do so could control these scourges. It is a question of the priority which is assigned to the task, and that largely depends on the extent to which the public's conscience is stirred.

In any country, the prevalence of blindness from glaucoma and cataract is related to the number of eye specialists able to do the necessary surgery. In the United States there is one eye specialist to every 30,000 people; in Northern Nigeria, there are four specialists to 30 million people. There is an acute shortage of eye specialists in the countries which most need them and, unless something decisive is done to increase training facilities and to induce ophthalmologists to

work in rural areas, a great burden of needless blindness will be passed on to the next generation.

Conclusions

There are too many uncertainties in this situation to warrant any dogmatic conclusions. However, on the facts so far as I have been able to ascertain them, I believe that the following trends are likely:--

1. Amongst that minority of the world's population which enjoys advanced medical and social services, the blindness rate is likely to continue to decrease until it reaches about 200. It may go lower in populations with a low average age. The proportion of old blind people will rise and the number of blind children should continue to fall until the hereditary causes become the decisive factor.

2. Amongst the three-quarters of the world's population which lives in Asia, Africa and Latin America, we should expect a steady, and in some places, a sharp decrease in the number of old blind people. The blindness rate amongst children should go down but, because of the accelerating growth of the child population generally, the actual number of blind children is unlikely to fall. The critical factor is malnutrition and, unless its ophthalmic consequences can be controlled, the blindness rate amongst children is unlikely to fall fast enough to balance the growth of the child population generally; in some areas the results of this could be alarming.

3. If the world's blindness rate is assumed to be 450, and if that rate is not appreciably reduced, the number of blind people in the world will rise from 14 million at present to 18 million by 1975 and to 27 million by the turn of the century. To maintain the present figure of about 14 million, the blindness rate will have to be reduced from 450 to 350 by 1975 and to 230 by the close of the century. The first of these two propositions seems too pessimistic and the second too optimistic; the truth may lie somewhere in between, in which case, by 1975, we can expect a blind population of about 16 million and, by the turn of the century, about 20 million.

It is for others in this Conference to indicate how far we in work for the blind are likely to respond to the astonishing challenges of this changing world. To do so significantly we must extend the whole scale of achievement. Where we have thought in hundreds, we must think in scores of thousands; where we have been concerned with single institutions, we must promote whole national systems. In the process, we may have to abandon some of our traditional specialism so that we can

gear the advance to those dynamic forces of educational and social betterment which are moving in the world today. We must be concerned with prevention and join with the doctors in giving this effort the momentum of a great international cause.

Professor Toynbee has said that the twentieth century may chiefly be remembered as the age in which men dared to regard the welfare of the whole of the human race as a reasonable objective. That human race contains a growing multitude of blind people; they are not dots on a statistician's chart nor cards in a computer, but people whose welfare is our objective. We will not attain it unless the need of the blind anywhere becomes the active concern of workers for the blind everywhere.

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

INKPRINT EDITION

VOICE OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND



The National Federation of the Blind is not an organization speaking for the blind--it is the blind speaking for themselves

N. F. B. Headquarters
2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, Calif.

DECEMBER ISSUE ---1964

THE BRAILLE MONITOR

Published monthly in braille and distributed free to the blind by the National Federation of the Blind, President Russell Kletzing, 2341 Cortez Lane, Sacramento 25, California.

Inkprint edition produced and distributed by the National Federation of the Blind, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley 8, California.

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News items and changes of address should be sent to the Editor.

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DECEMBER 1964

LEGAL VICTORY FOR BLIND PEDESTRIANS

"Thou shalt not place a stumbling-block before the blind"

This Biblical command has been given a new significance as the result of a recent judicial decision handed down by England's House of Lords--which in effect rules that those who dig trenches in sidewalks must not place "stumbling-blocks" in the path of the blind. Instead they must take reasonable precautions to safeguard the blind against injury.

In the case of Haley v. London Electricity Board, decided last July 28, the committee of British Law Lords--sitting as the equivalent of the U.S. Supreme Court--broke new judicial ground in their ruling that those who use the streets and highways for operations, such as construction work, owe a duty to blind and to sighted persons to provide reasonable safeguards to protect them against danger.

The English decision, which involved elaborate citations of American as well as British legal precedents, is binding upon British courts and will doubtless exert influence upon American courts as well--in the following two ways:

1--Safeguards must be provided, wherever obstructions or stumbling-blocks have been placed along regular routes of travel, for the protection of all persons who may reasonably be expected to use those routes, including the blind and other handicapped. This extension of the doctrine of "reasonable care and foreseeability" in effect lays down new law on the subject--overturning the traditional doctrine which has limited the obligation of contractors to that of exercising reasonable care in protection of the sighted and able-bodied alone.

2--The decision greatly reinforces the legal role of the white cane (or other walking stick) by emphasizing that a blind person walking without a cane is automatically guilty of contributory negligence in case of accident or injury.

The case arose out of a 1956 accident incurred by John Haley, a blind London telephone operator, while walking on his regular morning route to a bus stop. The Electricity Board had dug a 60-foot-long trench along the pavement and guarded it at one end by placing a punner-hammer across the pavement with its handle less than a foot above the ground. Haley, walking along the pavement unaware of the excavation, tripped over the punner-hammer and fell--striking his head on the pavement with such force that he became deaf.

At the original trial, and on appeal to the Court of Appeals, Haley's claim was rejected on the conventional grounds that adequate precautions had been taken for "normal"--that is, sighted--persons, and that if a blind person chose to venture along the route he "took it upon himself the risk of colliding with any obstruction therein"

In contrast, all five members of the House of Lords Committee agreed in upholding Haley and finding the Electricity Board guilty of negligence. Excerpts from two of their Lordships' opinions follow:

Lord Reid. . . if it was the duty of the respondents to have in mind the needs of blind or infirm pedestrians I think that what they did was quite insufficient. Indeed, the evidence shows that an obstacle attached to a heavy weight and only nine inches above the ground may well escape detection by a blind man's stick and is for him a trap rather than a warning. So the question for your Lordships' decision is the nature and extent of the duty owed to pedestrians by persons who carry out operations on a city pavement. The respondents argue that they were only bound to have in mind or to safeguard ordinary able-bodied people and were under no obligation to give particular consideration to the blind or infirm. If that is right, it means that a blind or infirm person who goes out alone goes at his peril. He may meet obstacles which are a danger to him but not to those with good sight because no one is under any obligation to remove or protect them. And if such an obstacle causes him injury he must suffer the damage in silence.

I could understand the respondents' contention if it was based on an argument that it was not reasonably foreseeable that a blind person might pass along that pavement on that day; or that, although foreseeable, the chance of a blind man coming there was so small and the difficulty of affording protection to him so great that it would have been in the circumstances unreasonable to afford that protection. Those are well recognized grounds of defence. But in my judgment neither is open to the respondents in this case.

In deciding what is reasonably foreseeable one must have regard to common knowledge. We are all accustomed to meeting blind people walking alone with their white sticks on city pavements. No doubt there are many places open to the public where for one reason or another one would be surprised to see a blind person walking alone, but a city pavement is not one of them. And a residential street cannot be different from any other. The blind people we meet must live somewhere and most of them probably

left their homes unaccompanied. It may seem surprising that blind people can avoid ordinary obstacles so well as they do, but we must take account of the facts. There is evidence in this case about the number of blind people in London and it appears from Government publications that the proportion in the whole country is near one in 500. By no means are all sufficiently skilled or confident to venture out alone but the number who habitually do so must be very large. I find it quite impossible to say that it is not reasonably foreseeable that a blind person may pass along a particular pavement on a particular day.

No question can arise in this case of any great difficulty in affording adequate protection for the blind. In considering what is adequate protection again one must have regard to common knowledge. One is entitled to expect of a blind person a high degree of skill and care because none but the most foolhardy would venture to go out alone without having that skill and exercising that care. We know that in fact blind people do safely avoid all ordinary obstacles on pavements; there can be no question of padding lamp posts as was suggested in one case. But a moments reflection shows that a low obstacle in an unusual place is a grave danger: on the other hand, it is clear from the evidence in this case and also I think from common knowledge that quite a light fence some two feet high is an adequate warning. There would have been no difficulty in providing such a fence here.... So if the respondents are to succeed it can only be on the ground that there was no duty to do more than safeguard ordinary able-bodied people....

I can see no justification for laying down any hard-and-fast rule limiting the classes of persons for whom those interfering with a pavement must make provision. It is said that it is impossible to tell what precautions will be adequate to protect all kinds of infirm pedestrians or that taking such precautions would be unreasonably difficult or expensive. I think that such fears are exaggerated.... It appears to me that the ordinary principles of the common law must apply in streets as well as elsewhere, and that fundamentally they depend on what a reasonable man, careful of his neighbour's safety, would do having the knowledge which a reasonable man in the position of the defendant must be deemed to have....

Lord Morton of Henryton.... There is no dispute as to the facts, and only two questions arise for decision--first, what is the duty owed by those who engage on operations on the pavement of a highway, and, secondly, was that duty discharged in the present

case.

My Lords, I would answer the first question as follows. It is their duty to take reasonable care not to act in a way likely to endanger other persons who may reasonably be expected to walk along the pavement. That duty is owed to blind persons if the operators foresee or ought to have foreseen that blind persons may walk along the pavement and is in no way different from the duty owed to persons with sight, though the carrying out of the duty may involve extra precautions in the case of blind pedestrians. I think that everyone living in Greater London must have seen blind persons walking slowly along on the pavement and waving a white stick in front of them, so as to touch any obstruction which may be in their way, and I think that the respondents' workmen ought to have foreseen that a blind person might well come along the pavement in question. . . . I would allow the appeal. Counsel for the respondents submitted that a decision against them would have very far-reaching consequences and would make it necessary for persons working in any public place to take elaborate and extreme precautions to prevent blind persons from suffering injury. My Lords, I do not think that the consequences would be so serious as counsel suggest, bearing in mind, first, that there are many places to which one would not reasonably expect a blind person to go unaccompanied and, secondly, that workmen are entitled to assume that such a person will take reasonable care to protect himself, by using a stick in order to ascertain if there is anything in his way and by stopping if his stick touches any object.

Copies of the full opinions may be obtained by writing to the editorial offices of the BRAILLE MONITOR, 2652 Shasta Road, Berkeley, California. 94708

THE BLIND AS TEACHERS OF MUSIC

By

Cora Rusten Middaugh

(Editor's note: The author and her husband, Earl Middaugh, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, are both totally blind Federationists, and longtime readers of THE BRAILLE MONITOR.)

I write this in the hope that some blind people who read it will think seriously of engaging in the teaching of music as their profession. It may be quite a lucrative one if you have a centrally located studio; but if you are a home-maker with or without a family, one of the advantages is that it can be carried on right in your home studio.

Even if you cannot obtain all the modern teaching material in braille, some of the old material can be used with excellent results. Much of our modern teaching material is very discordant and not musical anyway, and thus not at all conducive to best results for children.

If you start teaching when you are young, or decide that that is what you wish to do, you can copy much of your material yourself on a braille writer. There are also voluntary transcribers who are fine for this work, if you submit your copies a long time in advance; or you may get a sighted person to dictate from the print score. Of course, you can secure a lot of teaching material from our braille publishing houses. Avail yourself of all the braille music catalogues you can get.

These are the methods I have used in my thirty years of teaching music. Before I was married, I taught piano, violin and voice in small towns--giving free public recitals in which I explained how it was possible for a blind person to teach, and demonstrating how we read and write braille and memorize music. I also sometimes wrote little articles about the benefits of music lessons which served to advertise my teaching for the local paper. I would have as many as five towns a week as my music lesson territory. I also was a pianist in churches and directed anthems and cantatas for special occasions.

I began giving public concerts when I was 14 years old and continued until the early years of my marriage in 1937. I also played the piano for movie theaters before the days of sound transcription, and made many radio appearances as guest pianist--playing over WNAC in Boston when I attended the New England Conservatory (from which I graduated in 1930).

For purposes of advertising your work, you might put an ad in your local suburban paper, if you live in a big city, or in your local community paper. If you live in a large city, join a group of teachers on the order of The Minnesota Music Teacher's Association, or like our Music Teacher's Forum and our Music Teacher's Guild, composed of Minneapolis and suburban teachers. I have belonged to the Music Teacher's Forum since its founding in 1942, and it has been a great inspiration to me, as we can discuss mutual problems, and enjoy a lot of good fellowship at our meetings. We give certificates of merit

to our students if they have no missed lessons during the school year, or have made them up.

I have gone out to the homes of students to teach; but for many years now, my pupils all come to our home, which is a much better way. If you have a teacher's certificate, you can expect to obtain two dollars a lesson. You do not have to be a genius to teach music; but you must have patience, perseverance, authority, and be able to meet the child somewhat on his own level. Never forget that you were once a child yourself. Also, if you have high school pupils, try to get the superintendent to give them credit for their lessons from you, which will make each one a much better student. This at least has been my experience. And I hope that it may be yours as well.

BLIND LANGUAGE STUDENTS SOUGHT

About twelve blind students with high language aptitudes and a record of scholastic achievement in high school are being sought around the country to train as linguists in Arabic and Chinese in a new program at Occidental College, Los Angeles, California.

The program, supported in part by funds from the U.S. Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, is patterned upon a similar VRA sponsored program at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where blind students have been learning Russian since 1960, and, since 1962, German.

Students enrolled in the language classes at Occidental will be taking a regular academic program leading to a B.A. degree. Attainment of the degree is expected to take five years because of the heavy concentration which both Arabic and Chinese will require.

"Experience has shown that, despite their severe disability, blind persons, by using special devices including recording and playback equipment, are just as capable of learning a foreign language as sighted persons, and in some respects are even superior. One study has shown, for example, that while sighted linguists are likely to have a larger vocabulary than blind, blind persons ordinarily are superior in pronunciation to their sighted counterparts," said Miss Mary E. Switzer, Commissioner of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Tuition for the blind students will be paid for by VRA and room and board by the vocational rehabilitation agency in the State where they live--except in cases where the students can afford to pay their

own expenses. It is hoped that the blind students will be enrolled for the college term starting in January, 1965.

PERRIN McELROY DIES AFTER RE-ELECTION

Perrin D. McElroy, prominent member of the Progressive Blind of Missouri and longtime public official in his home county, died November 4 only a few hours after gaining victory in his battle for re-election.

Federationists who attended the NFB's 1961 convention in Kansas City will remember McElroy's eloquent speech describing his years of service as public administrator of Jackson County. He would have completed his 16th year in the office this December.

The day before his death McElroy, a Democrat, had easily won re-election to a fifth term over his Republican opponent. One of his chief campaign managers was George Rittgers, president of the Progressive Blind of Missouri. Earlier McElroy had easily won the August 4 primary in the face of stiff competition for the influential administrative position.

McElroy, who became blind at the age of 43, rose from labor union ranks to a position of prominence in civic affairs. He served as chairman of the board of Kansas City's housing authority, was an honorary director of Rockhurst College, and was a member of the Jackson County Historical Society as well as other civic groups.

On his way up through union ranks, McElroy employed his musical talent, playing with a number of bands including the Ted Weems orchestra, and later with his own band. He was married in 1937 and lost his eyesight nine years later.

First elected as public administrator in 1948, McElroy was honored in 1955 for his role as labor and civil leader at a testimonial dinner attended by more than 400 persons.

NEW ENLARGED BOOKS FOR PARTIALLY SEEING

A new technological improvement of photocopying methods is making it possible for many "legally blind" students to read the same books as their fellow pupils, according to a United Press International

report released in mid-October.

The photocopying machine, which enlarges book pages to 10-by-15 inches, is now being used by educational groups in New York, Maryland, Arizona and Massachusetts, the news agency report stated.

Until this year most legally blind children--defined as those who can see with corrected vision at 20 feet what normally sighted persons see at 200 feet--could rarely read exactly what others were reading in the same classroom. Specially designed books with large type, or tape recorders and magnifying devices, had to be introduced.

Many students in the five states who formerly required special schooling are now reading the enlarged books in such subjects as biology, history, business law, chemistry, civics, grammar and composition, it was said.

As many as 80 percent of the 16,000 to 17,000 legally blind school age children in the nation are believed able to use enlarged print books. In the process of enlarging, pages of the original book are microfilmed, then enlarged and printed out on a continuous printer that turns out more than 1,000 pages an hour--at a cost of 10-to-17 cents per page. An average six-inch by nine-inch textbook is expanded to about one and one-half its normal size, the UPI reported.

TWO BRAND NEW FEDERATIONISTS

To: National Federation of the Blind

Dear Friends:

You can never know how refreshing it was for me to read the Braille Monitor for August, 1964, which was given to me by a friend who receives it by mail. No one likes to be alone, and for two entire years I have felt very much alone in an uphill fight against tyranny, which seemed to be fruitless at the least and the unreasonable babbling of an ungrateful rebel at the most. Since May, 1962, my husband and I have suffered much from the hands of "helpful" agencies for the blind. Sighted people everywhere have preached that we could find no better, and blind people too, have insisted that there was nothing we could do but conform. But I was sure there was someone, somewhere, who felt as I do. My husband and I met and became engaged at the Jamaica, Queens, training center of the Industrial Home for the Blind. Our engagement was immediately opposed. Perhaps

this agency did not practice racial prejudice, but a non-Puerto Rican had been showing much interest in me, and this had been rather favored. They tried everything to separate Angelo and me, including telling him that I had been in a mental institution and telling me that he was incapable of working. I had never seen a mental institution, or been near one, and he had worked for 12 years in Puerto Rico. When they had failed with everything else, they sent me home stating that there was no job they could find for me in New York City, not even with four years of college, typing and dictaphone experience, switchboard experience, and all the skills necessary for caring for myself.

On July 14, 1962, no thanks to the I. H. B., Angelo and I were married. He was then in training to work in one of the sheltered shops operated by the agency where he would receive 65¢ an hour minimum. Angelo did protest about the conditions under which he worked. He even wanted to bring a union into the shop but quickly changed his tune when someone told him that he could be let go for so much as mentioning such a thing.

I had written to a blind friend of mine asking about the legality of such practices and the possibility of congressional investigation. He agreed that this did not seem right, but he added that he had had experience with congressmen in similar circumstances and that they had invariably gone to these agencies for their information and so had done little. There were also such intrusions into our privacy on the part of their workers as looking through every corner of our apartment, including the bedrooms, listening at the door of Angelo's parents' apartment, and other apartments in the building and insisting that when Angelo was sick, it was because of problems at home and when he protested about the job, he did not really wish to work. One woman came to visit us every week whether we liked it or not. Every time she came, she insisted that we had to have problems about which to talk to her. One day, I told her that a former professor of mine had mentioned the possibility of my writing for a city newspaper. There was a chance that I could do this from my own home, and I had studied journalism. With a baby on its way, I thought this a wonderful idea and asked the woman from the I. H. B. if she could look into it for me. Her answer was classic: "You still have many things to get out of the welfare," she told me. "You shouldn't even think of such a thing until you have received all you can from them."

When they let Angelo go, we asked again if there were no vending stand that he could operate. They replied that his English was too poor. I have known of people with poorer English than his with very successful businesses of their own. Also, there are large sec-

tions of New York City where Spanish is spoken by nearly everyone.

Because of conditions of the apartment in which we were living and considerable concern about the baby's health, we moved to my home town. But we did not move until the I. H. B. had assured us that Angelo could not receive employment of any kind through them and had as much as refused to send him to classes in English which were being held for blind people so that he might learn the language more quickly.

I write this not merely to air my own personal problems. I do write it, however, to point out vividly what you doubtless already know: that although the blind have come a long way on the road to acceptance by and equality with the sighted, there is still a long way to go. Many blind persons today have a choice either to be a puppet who must jump when someone else pulls the string or to sit at home with nothing to do.

Why? A sighted person in a factory does not have to accept 65¢ an hour minimum or nothing. A sighted person has no one telling him whom he can and cannot marry and trying to force him to, or not to, marry his choice. A sighted adult does not have someone treating him like a child who is incapable of making decisions for himself or of managing his own affairs. We do not ask for rights over and above those given to sighted people, but they can scarcely expect us to settle for anything less. The people at the State School said that the blind are in no way different from the sighted. It took much time and many hardships and heartaches to discover that at present this is not so.

My husband and I have not lost hope. We are devoting our time now to raising Valerie the best we can, but if we search and try hard enough, someday we shall find something.

Now that we have found an organization to which we are akin in hope and feeling, we should like to work with it to better the lot of the blind people everywhere who may be in situations similar to or worse than our own. To this end, we should like to request a copy in full of the resolutions adopted by the Phoenix Convention.

One person alone can do little, but many people united can do much. If the people of the Federation are uniting to attempt to cure some of the economical and social ills which I have described in this letter, then long live the NFB, and thank God for those who are willing to stand up and fight for what they know to be right rather than to lie down and be walked on by those who would be their keepers. Do

me a favor, and keep up the good work.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Patricia Snyder Ortiz
Seneca Falls, New York

SENATOR RANDOLPH LAUDS ORGANIZED BLIND

Saturday, August 15, 1964, was a red-letter day for the West Virginia Federation of the Blind. Their successful convention was made especially memorable by the banquet address of Senator Jennings Randolph, father of the Randolph-Shepard Vending Stand Act and the 1956 winner of the Newel Perry Award of the National Federation of the Blind. Space limitations permit reprinting only a brief excerpt from his speech:

"To each of you at this Convention, I extend my congratulations. I share your pride in the substantial growth of the National Federation of the Blind and I recall that it is the first and foremost nation-wide organization of blind men and women in America! The West Virginia Federation is contributing to the strength and effectiveness of that respected organization."

"By your very presence you have demonstrated your active interest in achieving for blind persons the right and responsibility to exercise to the fullest their individual talents and abilities, and to participate as citizens in a world that is today moved and motivated as never before by contradictions and challenges of peoples everywhere...."

"I speak from personal knowledge in stating with emphasis that there is no other group of our citizens who are doing more to help themselves and to acknowledge their responsibilities than are our citizens who are without their sight. Their courage, determination and industriousness have been demonstrated."

"Their goals, which have often been expressed to me, are just and reasonable: the chance to live on the basis of equality--to work on the same basis as others in employment for which they are qualified by training and ability--to compete as equals in the open labor market of our economy and earn an adequate living for themselves and their families. These goals are worthy of every assistance that Congress can provide."

"As usual, your organization has been helpful in providing informative and purposeful support in the effort to bring forth legislation which will encourage sightless Americans to take their rightful place as productive members of society. You have sought important revisions and improvements in the Social Security Act. You have supported legislation which would remove residence requirements in state programs of aid to the blind. Your positive influence has been felt in deliberations on measures dealing with education, tax revision, vocational training, the minimum wage, and other issues of national and international significance."

"Not all of these bills, or even the majority of them, will achieve Congressional approval during this session. However, you are well aware that we are moving nearer to our goals by contributing to public discussion, and the seeds which are sown today will bloom at some future time in the form of additional benefits, incentives and freedom of action for the blind."

OHIO'S SCHOOL FOR MULTIPLY HANDICAPPED

A new school for blind children suffering from additional handicaps has opened its doors in Akron, Ohio, after four years of preliminary grounds work by the Summit County Society of the Blind and the Ohio Council for the Blind.

Supported by funds distributed to the Summit County Society from the Mensch Estate, the four-month-old day school presently accommodates six students ranging from five to nine years of age, with hopes of rapid expansion toward the immediate goal of educating all of the county's 40 or more multiply handicapped children.

Eventually it is hoped that the educational project will expand to the level of a residential school capable of caring for the needs of the state's 440 blind children with added disabilities who now lack any governmental educational or training facility, according to Clyde Ross, president of the sponsoring Summit County Society.

The Akron school, operated by an experienced teacher with the help of a board of directors which includes leaders of the county society of the blind, has to date taken steps toward improving the self-confidence of its pupils as well as their familial relationships and adjustment.

NOTES ON WORK FOR THE BLIND IN HONG KONG

By

Lucy Ching, Hong Kong

(Editor's note: Miss Ching, a social welfare officer in Hong Kong prepared this paper for presentation before the National Federation of the Blind Convention in Phoenix last July. Although she arrived too late to present the paper personally--it was read to the convention by Rosamond Kritchley. Miss Ching subsequently took part in numerous activities of NFB affiliates in various parts of the country.)

There are more than 5,000 blind persons in Hong Kong--a considerable number, but only a tiny fraction of the seven million blind people of Asia.

My own story is far from typical, but it may be instructive. I became blind when I was just a small girl in China. Fortunately, near my home in Canton there was a modest school for the blind, where I learned to read braille in Cantonese. But soon, like so many others in the China of that period, my family became refugees--moving first to Macao and then to Hong Kong in 1952. There, after many difficulties, my education was resumed at both Chinese and English schools, where I worked alongside sighted students in regular classes--representing no doubt one of the first experiments in integrated education in our part of the world.

After completing high school a wonderful opportunity came my way in the form of a two-year scholarship to study at the Perkins School in America, with my round trip ticket and monthly allowance furnished by the John Milton Society. This schooling made possible the realization of a lifelong dream--that of working for blind people. I was therefore very glad and proud when the Government social welfare department in Hong Kong gave me a post in the blind welfare unit of their welfare services section. I believe I am the first social welfare officer in our community who is blind.

In 1955, the Hong Kong government set up a committee to investigate the condition of the blind. It found that nearly all the blind people of the city lived in utter poverty as street beggars and hawkers, minstrels and fortune tellers. More than a hundred persons at that time were homeless and slept in the streets. The lives of blind women were particularly difficult; it is of course very hard for a blind girl to beg in the streets, and many of them consequently had a bad reputation.

As a result of this public survey the Hong Kong Society for the Blind was formed, affiliated with the Royal Commonwealth Society. At the same time, the government started its blind welfare work. Today there are three training centers for the blind, and I am in charge of one of them. They are operated like clubs, where blind people may come for rehabilitation, to have a mid-day meal, and also to gain confidence so that they may find their own way about our busy streets. Many of the blind still live in bed spaces and overcrowded tenements, but we are proud to think that there are no longer many blind beggars left--and that nobody is without hope.

It has been a rewarding experience for me to see newly blinded people, after receiving training from our centers, begin to live meaningful and useful lives again, working at the vocational centers or being placed in regular competitive industry as telephone switchboard operators or in other occupations.

We have two mission schools in the city, which for years have done good work despite a severe lack of funds, buildings and teachers. Now one of these schools has a wonderful new building, with fine classrooms and a gymnasium. The other has moved into a larger house and teachers have been trained. Today we believe that nearly all of our blind children are at school in Hong Kong--perhaps the first time anything like this has occurred in any country of Asia.

I must not forget to mention our new factory, which aims to compete in regular industry and to be an example to the whole city of what blind people can do. Today more than 200 blind persons are working in the factory--operating large machines to make plastics, to cut wood and metal. At first, some blind people were afraid of the machines; but now they have learned to master them, and can work as quickly as anyone else in Hong Kong. At present we are the largest supplier of crates and chalk and brushes in the city.

May I thank you for making it possible for me to come to your country and attend your conferences. As my blind friends in Hong Kong phrased it, my chances are their opportunities. We all feel that the National Federation of the Blind in the United States is very close to our hearts, because of our common interests and mutual understanding. We feel very much as though we too are a part of your organization.

A PROTEST AGAINST FEDERATION POLICIES

By
Maria K. Baumann

(Editor's note: The following is a letter written by Mrs. Baumann of Phoenix, Arizona, to Dr. Jacobus tenBroek.)

Greetings to you and your family from the Valley of the Sun where it is now very cool and pleasant. By the time Christmas is here we will have roses in bloom.

This part of the letter may be somewhat of a surprise to you, but it seems necessary that it be written, if for not other reason than that we as Americans have the right to freedom of speech and expression. The two are not always the same.

First, this is a negative protest against this World Federation. There is still so much to be done with and for our own blind right here in the United States that it seems we should be about it, rather than spreading ourselves too thin over all the world, and being used as "Old Uncle Moneybags," just because that is what the nations of the world have had from our government, and therefore all the world expects.

If we want to be of the most help to the world, let us do it by example. So far we have fallen far, far short in this respect.

Regarding the MONITOR, there is not nearly enough legislative news. What are we getting ready to do when Congress convenes? Nothing? It looks that way. We are so busy with the IFB that we forget about the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF THE BLIND, and my loyalty is to my country.

Another negative protest, this time regarding half fare on planes in spite of your propaganda in the MONITOR. Just because you, and a hundred like you can afford to pay full fare and travel by yourselves, that does not mean that the next thousand can either afford the cost or travel without guides. It is not good to deny another man help just because you, yourself, do not need it. The time may come when you may be much worse off. What then?

BLIND PEACE CORPSMAN IN NEPAL

I feel that some magic carpet has whisked me these 15,000 miles

to Nepal from my beloved California."

This is the way Lloyd Stevens, blind Peace Corps volunteer, reports on his recent arrival in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, where he will devote the next two years to development of a program of teacher training for instructors of blind children.

"Reality is on every side of me here in Kathmandu in the form of hundreds of Hindu temples, the throngs of people who surround me every time I enter the bazaar--curious but good-humored people are these Nepalese--the breath-taking descriptions of the mighty Himalayas by my friends, who say that they must be painted on a blue canvas for they just can't be real; the battle each day to keep up our guard over water and diet and yet not offend anyone here..."

"I am exceedingly fortunate to be here and even more fortunate to find that I am needed and that I seem to have a tremendous volume of support from the Nepalese both in and out of government," writes Lloyd. He notes that he was especially encouraged by an interview which he and Dr. William Unsoeld, Peace Corps director for Nepal, obtained with Dr. Upraity, the principal of the College of Education, which conducts teacher training programs of the type to be undertaken by Lloyd.

As a result of his preliminary contacts, Lloyd has been asked to assist in the development of an integrated educational system for blind children, beginning with a pilot program at the College of Education. During the two-month school vacation which starts in December, Lloyd will conduct a seminar for the College's teaching staff, with attention to training teachers in the first three grades so that they may serve as resource teachers as well as instructors of the sighted children in the same classes.

"It is a start, and it will give us time to make Nepali braille texts, orient the children, prepare the teachers and gather materials before classes begin in February," he points out.

Stevens observes that he has gained the full support of the local Rotary Club, which two years ago first proposed a program for the education of Nepal's blind children but has lacked finances and direction to carry it through.

En route to Nepal, Lloyd stopped off at New Delhi India, and with another PCV dashed down town in an open three wheeled scooter for an interview with Dr. Mukergee, principal of the Institute for the Blind in New Delhi. When time and work permit, Lloyd plans to re-

turn to New Delhi to study the city's programs for the blind and activities by them.

A native of Stockton, California, young Stevens attended the Oakland Orientation Center for the Blind, the University of California and the University of Oregon, where he undertook the special training for Peace Corps Volunteers.

FRIENDS OF BLIND WIN AT POLLS

By
John F. Nagle

When the 89th Congress convenes in January, the cause of the organized blind will be broadly and ably defended. With few exceptions, National Federation's most vigorous supporters have been returned to office in this fall's elections, in one prominent case at least, not the same office.

Senator Hubert Humphrey, as everyone knows, was "promoted" from his Senate seat to the Vice-Presidency of the United States-- which also will make him presiding officer of the Senate. The new V-P has been an articulate champion of Federation programs for many years. Those who attended the 1947 NFB convention in Minneapolis will remember his words of welcome to the delegates while he was Mayor of Minneapolis. His advocacy of our cause reached a climax in September of this year when he persuaded the Senate to adopt our bill liberalizing the provisions of the disability insurance law for blind people.

High on the "honor roll" of distinguished lawmakers who won election victories this year are the following, all well known to Federationists:

Congressman Walter S. Baring, Nevada, whose contributions to our cause are too numerous to need enumeration;

Congressman Cecil R. King of California, and Senator Vance Hartke, Indiana, who will continue to join with the Federation in our struggle to improve the lot of blind aid recipients through legislative action;

Congressman Robert J. Corbett, Pennsylvania, and Senator Mike Mansfield, the Senate Majority Leader from Montana, who successfully collaborated to secure the recent enactment of our White

Cane Safety Day resolution;

Congressman John Dent, Pennsylvania, and Congressman Dominick Daniels, New Jersey, who have carried the brunt of the campaign for statutory minimum-wage protection for sheltered workshop employees;

Carlton Sickles, Congressman-at-Large from Maryland, will again be available for help in eliminating the onerous means test from the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation law, and from the lives of blind people.

Congressman Philip Burton, California, now entering his first full congressional term, will continue the work carried on for many years in the California legislature where he secured among other things the passage of laws abolishing length-of-residence requirements and responsibility of relatives for blind aid recipients.

The foregoing represents only a partial list of the Federation's friends and allies in the national legislature who survived the November elections to fight again in the common cause of improved welfare, widened opportunity and reinforced security for all blind Americans.

Missing from this roster of victorious Federation supporters is the name of Congressman Tom Gill, of Hawaii, who had been instrumental in welfare legislation as majority floor leader in Hawaii's House of Representatives and who was subsequently very active in sheltered shop minimum-wage and other proposals as a member of Congress.

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S JOB RECORD HAILED

The Department of Justice has recently won praise for its outstanding record in employing blind and other handicapped persons--totalling more than 800--in a wide variety of occupations. The department's ten blind employees include three attorneys, one court reporter, three clerk-typists and three transcribing machine operators.

The federal department was named October 1 as winner of the Blind Veterans Association's 1964 Employer of the Year award, in recognition of its overall record and its addition of 42 new handicapped workers during the last year.

David L. Norman, one of the three blind lawyers employed by the Justice Department, is a former student of Professor Jacobus tenBroek at the University of California, where he earned both a bachelor of arts and a law degree. His outstanding college record is characterized by membership in the honorary scholarly society, Phi Beta Kappa, and by associate editorship of the California Law Review.

Norman was selected for appointment by the Justice Department in 1956 under the Attorney General's Honor Recruit Program. Twice the recipient of Sustained Superior Performance Awards, he is currently a supervisory trial attorney coordinating activities of the Justice Department involved in the analysis of voting registration records obtained under the Civil Rights Act. The department reports that Norman's services have been most valuable in the planning of law suits and the development of legal theories, techniques of proof and sources from which proof can be obtained.

A second departmental attorney, John Sirignano, lost his sight in World War II while taking part in a raid on a German village. He later graduated from Dartmouth College, earned a degree from Yale University Law School, and also was an actor and director at Yale's School of Drama. Now a trial lawyer with the department's Antitrust Division, Sirignano performs a variety of duties including conducting grand jury investigations, participating in oral arguments before the courts, examining witnesses, etc. He is considered to be one of the most valuable attorneys in the New York Office.

The third Justice Department lawyer, John L. Wilson, graduated magna cum laude from Ohio's Mount Union College before earning his professional degree from the University of Michigan Law School. While a law student he was a John King Scholar, Senior Editor of the Michigan Law Review, and author of a prizewinning monograph on copyright law. He is presently an attorney-adviser in the Antitrust Division--having been selected for appointment under the Honor Recruit Program--and is assigned to the Judgment Enforcement Section which deals with compliance actions in antitrust cases. Like his fellow blind attorneys in the department, Wilson is said to have demonstrated a high degree of competence and intelligence in his handling of numerous important cases.

Newest of the Department's blind employees is Miss Fonda Ellinger, a dictating machine transcriber, who is notable among other things for her association with the Maryland Sky Divers Club. "She can't be a member, not because she is blind, but because she is a woman," according to acting Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach. "She is working out an altimeter in braille in anticipa-

tion of the day when she will make her first parachute jump."

EDUCATION OF BLIND CHILDREN

By
Ruth Friedman

(Editor's note: Mrs. Friedman, an educational advisor with the Hadley School for the Blind, spent four months earlier this year investigating educational facilities for the blind in 17 foreign countries under auspices of the U. S. Cultural Exchange Program. Following, with abridgments made necessary by space limitations, is a report on her wide-ranging expedition submitted by Mrs. Friedman for publication in the BRAILLE MONITOR.)

All over Europe one finds residential institutions of learning for the blind, elementary plus vocational, which came into being through the energetic efforts of individuals as far back as 130 years, when custodial care plus minimal instruction began. The specific segregation varies from country to country and from institution to institution. It may cover only blind and partially sighted, it may extend to deaf and partial hearing students, and in many cases the mentally retarded are included.

The age of these schools is a distinct factor--largely deterrent--in their progress, their systems being steeped in tradition which is difficult to unsettle. With some variation, training is offered in "three R's", frequently leaving much to be desired in the way of modernity of techniques of education as well as in content. Most schools offer applied music (in some instances quite extensive departments), art programs (upon occasion particularly excellent for the deaf population), and physical education (seldom specially oriented, but upon rare occasion very well planned), plus a variety of handicrafts.

In Yugoslavia, Israel, Finland, Malta, and Iceland, there is full government support with flexible budgets geared to defray the legitimate costs of education of the exceptional child (euphonic designation of the handicapped). The Ministries of Education and of Social Welfare cooperate to make this possible and these ministers lent willing ears to a presentation of integrated blind and sighted programs. Israel alone, of these most advanced and open-minded countries, has incorporated this doctrine into her school system since statehood in 1948, using itinerant resource teachers and instructed social workers. The Institute for the Blind in Jerusalem, Israel, accepts all blind

children who for any reason cannot be assimilated into a school system near their homes--for elementary and pre-vocational training. In passing it can be noted that it is impossible for a blind child to enter Israel without immediate detection and follow-up for educational placement, as ports of entry by air or sea are so alerted. And occupational training, when the time of readiness arrives, is thoroughly organized and made accessible.

In Belgium, Holland, and Sweden, education of the blind and partially seeing child begins as early as three years, and special sensory training with a great variety of tactile materials is provided. Holland is notable for its version of the cottage plan system--where elementary schools are arranged in small residential units with house-mothers and fathers giving security to the young children with whom they live in small groups, providing supervision of physical needs and reinforcement for emotional needs, and coordinating their efforts with the instructors who teach them in the classroom. The impression of warmly personal care was particularly strong there--where individual children were known to the Director by name.

In Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland, the governments are vitally interested in the development of good educational programs for the handicapped. Finances are regularly budgeted and the antiquated residential institutions, while not yet considered obsolescent, are being exposed to critical scrutiny. To hasten and intensify the awareness of need for this change, a cogent case was presented delineating the virtues of an integrated system of blind and sighted education in elementary schools.

In the Near-East (Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Greece were visited); secondary education of blind individuals is not an issue. Until very recently so few blind students have reached the secondary level schools as to make it a rarity. However, depending on the efficacy of his primary education, the background, motivation, and learning potential of each individual dictates the direction of his secondary and professional or vocational schooling. Obsolete antagonisms still obtain, which must be broken down gradually, but they are giving way under pressure. In Jerusalem, Jordan, much if not all of the progressive endeavor toward assisting blind individuals to acquire a formal education in the past fifty years has been that of one man, Subhi Dajani; out of hundreds who have benefitted in varying amounts, ten blind men have achieved teaching status and are practicing their professions in their own or adjacent countrys. The number seems small, but it represents prodigious effort expended. These teachers are the prize fruits of the harvest of a dedicated lifetime.

This pattern of vigorous exertion and single minded determination is duplicated in the person of Dr. Emanuel Kafaki in Athens, Greece; of Mr. Rakaby in Damascus, Syria; of Mr. Virkki in Helsinki, Finland; of Achille Dychmans and Herman Van Dyck in Brussels and Antwerp, Belgium; of Charles Hedquist in Stockholm, Sweden; and of Steven Uzelac in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Each of these men, blind themselves, have felt the call and answered it. In each case, their life-work, their devotion to the cause of improved opportunity for a productive life for the educable blind stands on its merit, an inspiration for all time.

The churches still provide whatever educational service is available to blind youth in Ireland; in northern Ireland a residential school of the Protestant Church, and in Dublin two under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church--St. Joseph's School for Blind Boys, and St. Mary's for Blind Girls. There is little governmental provision for either school programming or vocational training. The National Council for the Blind is making a valiant attempt with a painfully inadequate budget to achieve some rehabilitation with placement--some training of telephonists, and some purchasing of radios for clients in outlying areas.

This lack of obligation on the part of the government also exists in Greece, Lebanon, and Jordan. The Moslem doctrine, that God has arranged the blindness and fate is not to be questioned, impedes technical progress. It also is responsible for the widespread use of the one-handed braille writing machine--since copying the Koran is the major life-goal of the instructed blind. The governmental apathy in these four countries, in varying degrees, and depending on national personality traits, accounts for much despair and lethargy in the blind population. The pattern of generally wide-spread unemployment is reflected painfully among the employable blind.

Belgium's blind and partially seeing children are living and studying in several large institutions housing between 300 and 400 children each, usually up to the age of 15 or 16 years. The administrators and teachers belong to religious orders, "sisters" in the girls schools and "brothers" in the schools for the boys. In one case, nuns at Spermalie Institute, near Bruges, Belgium are operating a Hotel Personnel Training School, with 180 sighted students who pay for their three year course. This is an accredited and well-respected school, through whose proceeds a school for 275 deaf, blind, or ambliopic students is supported.

For the most part national welfare organizations in Europe have come into being through individual initiative, and governmental

recognition and support has followed. These rehabilitation and adult training centers are attracting the blind youth of the countries and offering some fine direction for open industry and employment. In Siuntio near Helsinki, Finland an old barn has been reconstructed into excellently equipped mechanical workshops--and the upper level is divided into housekeeping units of single and double living accommodations, with the most modern facilities.

At Huseby School, in Oslo, there is a large area where old pianos in various stages of disrepair provide the training equipment for experience in piano tuning and construction. At Bruges in Belgium, and at Dieren in Holland, at Christinehamn in Sweden, training centers are teaching switchboard operation, typing, dicta-phone, and basic English courses to visually handicapped young people who are preparing to take their place in the world; and at the Christinehamn Center, punch-card operators are being trained.

Yugoslavia proved to be the most hospitable of the visited countries, and high among those determined to do all possible toward both education and rehabilitation of its blind population. Its young adult blind are foremost in at least two areas--the first, by way of intellectual development, being chess playing, including international competitions, where their performance is quite superior; and second, in becoming trained physio-therapy technicians, or as they term it, "kinesthetic masseurs". The Federation of the Blind in Yugoslavia has its overall headquarters in Belgrade, plus complete organizations with capable blind leadership, in each of the five national regions who arrange and supervise education, training, and placement.

Nothing yet has been said about those two little islands--Malta and Iceland, which added color and variety to the already unusual itinerary of this survey. What were their unique features? Malta, like Sweden has an inordinately high incidence of diabetes, and many of these cases have found themselves on the island's blind roles. This has added deep concern to the already existing preoccupation with problems of the blind of the government's social welfare and education departments. Malta is striving to register its blind with a view to improving its welfare program--although integrated education had apparently never been considered, once mentioned, its possibilities claimed their eager consideration.

Iceland, with a small incidence of blindness, has somehow succeeded in absorbing the majority of its blind population into the national economy; where this is not practicable, a fine self-respecting attitude has been achieved in the atmosphere at the semi-sheltered workshop where good woven reed furniture and toys (doll-buggies, cradles,

etc.,) have been added to the usual production lists. Fine workmanship has made it possible to sell for good prices with resultant good earnings.

In summary, it appears that in surveying the lot of blind people in seventeen highly diversified countries, one finds a wide disparity in attitudes, facilities, sources of support, and generally available assistance. Some countries have made impressive modern strides and others are unbelievably delayed in their perception of the specialized needs of the blind segment of their population. With the improved intercommunication of countries, through shared research and the interchange of ideas accomplished by trips of this nature, there is progress today and more hope for tomorrow in the worldwide field of education and welfare of the blind.

NEW NFB WHITE CANE WEEK CHAIRMAN

NFB President Russell Kletzing has announced the appointment of Anthony G. (Tony) Mannino as White Cane Week Chairman. The White Cane Week Office will be at 205 South Western Avenue, Room 206, Los Angeles, California. The telephone number--DU8-5510.

Tony is a veteran Federationist. He has been President of the Active Blind Inc., of Los Angeles, for the last six years. It is a chapter with more than 100 members and a very dynamic program. Last month he was re-elected to his second term as First Vice-President of the California Council of the Blind. He has also had substantial fund raising experience as Executive Secretary of the American Brotherhood for the Blind.

The National White Cane Week Chairman assists the state affiliates in conducting their White Cane Week mailings and other fund raising activities. He secures envelopes, materials and enclosures which state affiliates can purchase at reduced wholesale prices. He advises them on their appeal letters, enclosures, publicity, and other methods of securing maximum returns. In addition to all this, he himself directly conducts a small national mailing on behalf of the Federation.

STATE CONVENTION ROUNDUP

Ohio Council of the Blind. The Ohio Council met in Akron at the Sheraton Mayflower Hotel October 9-10-11. The current slate of officers was re-elected with George G. Bonsky returning as president for a second term. Bonsky was also elected to serve as delegate to the Washington convention of the NFB. Harry Stiller, familiarly known as Mr. Blind Man of Ohio, received an award for his many years of service and leadership. Ben Pumo of Toledo and Clyde Ross of Akron each received an award for being the outstanding handicapped employee of the year in their respective communities. Pumo is presently Director of the Toledo Goodwill Industries. Clyde Ross is an employee of Goodyear Aerospace, with 21 years service.

Colorado Federation. The Colorado Federation of the Blind held its annual convention Saturday, October 31 at the American Legion Hall in Denver. The list of speakers was thinned by a flu epidemic. Cliff Jensen, president, was himself confined to bed. Ray MacGeorge did an excellent job taking over in Cliff's absence.

Harvey Cox was also unable to attend because of illness. Professor Jacobus tenBroek was on hand, speaking several times during the day and delivering the banquet address during the evening. Cliff Jensen was elected to serve as the delegate to the 1965 N. F. B. convention.

New York Convention. The Empire State Association of the Blind held its ninth annual convention October 9-12 at the Hotel Niagara in Niagara Falls. Participation by Canadian guests lent an international flavor to the sessions, which were also marked by high spirits and sociability, according to Floyd S. Field, convention chairman and president of the Niagara Chapter.

The ESAB's award for outstanding service to the blind was presented by President Dominic DeJohn to Charles Owen, Vice president of Noel, Virginia. Some 116 members attended the banquet to hear an address given by Joseph Oirak, public relations official of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Indiana Council. La Salle Hotel in South Bend was the setting for the 11th annual convention of the Indiana Council of the Blind, September 4-6. John Janssens, ICB president, was chosen as the delegate, and Ray Dinsmore as alternate delegate, to the 1965 national convention. Among the many highlights of the meeting was a banquet speech by state senatorial candidate Bill Ruckleshouse.

Arizona Federation. The Jesse Griswold Club of the Blind was host to the 15th annual state convention of the Arizona Federation of the Blind at Prescott's St. Michael's Hotel November 7 and 8. Newly elected officers are: president, James Fall (re-elected); first vice-president, Mrs. Ewald Smith; second vice-president, James Carlock; secretary, Joe Hurley, and treasurer, Gordon Perrine (re-elected). A banquet highlight was the presentation of the Nicholas Ziezer Award to Mrs. Jean Sandler as the most deserving volunteer worker for the blind. The Henry Rush Scholarship Award was presented to LeRoy Kerr, a blind Federation member. Keynote speaker at the dinner was Mrs. Sara Folson, newly elected Arizona State Superintendent of Schools.

Missourians Meet. The Progressive Blind of Missouri held their regular annual convention at the Aladdin Hotel in Kansas City November 14-15. The growing strength of the organization is symbolized by the rise in attendance at convention banquets. In 1962 the number was in the twenties, in 1963 in the fifties, and in 1964 over a hundred. The Jacobus tenBroek Award was given to Mrs. Dolores Haken, sighted member of BethShalom for transcription and other services. Professor tenBroek himself conferred the award and delivered the banquet address. Officers elected were: president, "Tiny" Beadle; vice-president, Cotton Busby; recording secretary, Sonia Carr; corresponding secretary, Gwen Rittgers; treasurer, Doris Miller.

North Dakota Board Meets. Fargo will be the site of the 1965 state convention of the Federated Blind of North Dakota, according to plans set at an October meeting of the group's board of directors. The board also passed an amendment to permit former North Dakotans to become members of the Federated Blind, with the stipulation that such non-resident members who belong to another state affiliate of the NFB will not vote on matters pertaining to the NFB (such as the choice of delegates). Another resolution was adopted setting up an activities committee to draw plans for an official publication representing the FBND.

New Jersey Council. The State Council of New Jersey Organizations of the Blind held its seventh annual convention October 17 at the Winfield Scott Hotel in Elizabeth. Officers elected are: president Myles Crosby (re-elected for third term); first vice-president, Harold Daiker; second vice-president, Stanley Spaide; secretary, Constance Rich; treasurer, Henry Duser. Three members appointed to the executive committee are Anne Rose Johnson, Mike Sofka, and Nicholas Novak.

MONITOR MINIATURES

The Elbee Audio Players, an independent New York City group of blind amateur performers, recently opened its third season of weekend dramatic reading productions for the community. With a repertoire of full-length adaptations of major stage and screen plays, the group invites blind and partially seeing persons in the New York area with braille or sight reading competence to take part. Write: David Swerdlow, director 621 West End Avenue, N. Y. C. . . . Don Walker acting superintendent of the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School since the August resignation of Lee Iverson, was appointed as superintendent in late October. Walker served for several years as principal of the school, which is located in Vinton.

Arthur Linsenbigler, vice president and former president of the Associated Blind of New Jersey, has designed and developed a new system enabling sightless persons to play bingo by using braille and pegs. His braille peg bingo board is expected to be marketed soon at 50¢ for each of the hand-made cards. . . . The National Church Conference of the Blind held its annual meeting in late July at Indianapolis with William Kontz of Iowa and Robert Whitehead of Kentucky among those elected to national offices.

Miss Mary E. Fitzgerald, librarian for the blind at the New York State Library since 1953, died September 18 in Schenectady after an illness which had forced her retirement a short time before. . . . Pennsylvania's Handicapped State Worker of the Year award was presented in October to Miss Mary J. Smith, of Reading, blind telephone operator and transcription typist. Miss Smith, employed by the Department of Public Welfare since 1961, has learned to operate a radically new type of switchboard, has devised her own system of taking messages and created her own street directory in braille.

Will Bowman of Los Angeles, in his efforts to establish the freedom of the blind to lodge in hotels of their own choosing, recently obtained the following opinion from the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department: "The Civil Rights Act of 1964 has no special applicability to persons who are blind. In general terms, it only prohibits certain discrimination which is based on race, color, religion or national origin."

Burt L. Risley, a member of the board of directors of the Texas Commission for the Blind for the past six years, has been appointed to fill the post of Commission director vacated by the retirement of Lon Alsup. The latter will be remembered as a longtime foe of the organized blind. . . . In another public appointment, Floyd H. McDowell,

principal for eight years of the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, has succeeded Glen I. Harris as its superintendent. . . . The La Luz Chapter of the New Mexico Federation of the Blind awarded an unusual prize at its Halloween fund-raising dance headed up by Rafaelita Salazar --nothing less than a well-fed yearling steer.

A Braille First Aid Manual, recommended by the American Medical Association, is available without charge from the Christian Record Braille Foundation, Inc., 4444 South 52nd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68516. . . . Among recent appointments to the National Advisory Council of Vocational Rehabilitation by HEW Secretary Celebrezze was that of Aaron Solomon, President of Ace Electronics of Somerville, Massachusetts. His company was named Employer of the Year in 1963 by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, in view of its record of employing severely disabled persons to the extent of 75 percent of the labor force.

The New Mexico Federation is to be asked to submit a list of nominees to fill one of three positions on a committee to survey city buildings in Albuquerque to determine the extent of structural barriers to the handicapped. . . . The Braille Music Reference Library, established two years ago by a Federation-backed bill, is now in full operation. Catalogs of available musical scores and texts in braille may be obtained from: Music Reference Librarian, Division for the Blind, Library of Congress, Washington D.C. 20540. Information is also available concerning musical texts, music periodicals in braille, and publishers on music in braille for purchase.

Delawar Hussein, friend of Dr. Isabelle Grant and the National Federation, and himself an active member of the Pakistan Association of the Blind, writes from Lahore: "May I congratulate you on the International Federation of the Blind. This is surely the greatest achievement of the blind ever made in the twentieth century. Some blind people in America have really proved their worth. I think I must congratulate all the members of the IFB and then the blind of the world, but how? Would it be possible through certain braille magazines? Please convey my compliments to Dr. tenBroek and the president of the NFB."

Frank Allen, former president of the Wyoming Federation of the Blind, spent three weeks in Colorado recently undergoing training preliminary to moving to a so-called "wet" vending stand from his present "dry" stand in Cheyenne. While in the state Frank and his wife attended the convention of the Colorado Federation on October 31. . . . Keith James, delegate from Colorado Springs to the state convention, suffered a heart attack while attending the meetings. For-

tunately the attack proved not to be critical and he was released from the hospital to return home the same evening.

Tom Parker, veteran organizer for the British League of the Blind and local government official, ran for Parliament on the Labor Party ticket in the October elections and missed victory by an extraordinarily narrow margin in a three-cornered race. His Conservative opponent had just over 20,000 votes. Tom had just under 20,000, and the Liberal Party candidate drew 6,600. Better luck next time, Tom! (And no doubt "next time" will not be far in the future.)

A braille booklet on Family Planning and Birth Control is available at \$1.50 per copy from Planned Parenthood/World Population, Western Region Office, 655 Sutter Street, Room 401, San Francisco, California 94102. Attention: Mrs. G. T. Morris.

Robert S. Bray of the Library of Congress reports that he recently saw a demonstration of braille sent over a teletype circuit. The keyboard of the teletypewriter is best operated by a braille transcriber, but particulars must await release by Telephone Pioneers, who devoted much time and effort to developing this unique device.... The Volunteers of Vacaville, a group of inmates at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, California., devote their evening hours from dinner to midnight to a variety of services to the blind and partially sighted--braille transcribing, reading on tapes for students, drawing relief maps, and transcribing materials into large type for partially sighted readers. The Iowa State Penitentiary also has an active group of braille transcribers.

The first blind telephone operator to be employed by the Federal Government is now operating a consolidated switchboard requiring a directory of approximately 15,000 names, addresses and telephone numbers. General Services Administration provided equipment and the Library of Congress did the original transcribing job on three-by-five file cards rotating wheel files and it will be up to the blind operator to make subsequent changes necessary to keep the directory up to date.... The Cleveland Society for the Blind was recently assured that it will receive \$253,000 in federal funds under the Hill-Burton Act for a new rehabilitation center, plans for which have been approved by the United States Public Health Service.

Miss H. Catherine Smith, a graduate of Seeing Eye in Morristown, New Jersey, is a columnist and feature writer for the Buffalo Courier-Express.... After fourteen years of studying music, mathematics, mechanics and electronics and after finally receiving a grant from the National Research Development Council, a blind housewife

in London, England, finally completed work on a typewriter which types musical scores and strikes the notes on bells at the same time. Designed especially for blind musicians and composers, her unique invention won a gold medal at the Brussels Inventors Exhibition.

John Howard Griffin, author of the recent best-seller Black Like Me wrote an earlier and more controversial novel entitled The Devil Rides Outside during a period of total blindness which lasted for ten years.... A newly published booklet, titled "Good Help," is now being distributed to selected employers in New York State as part of a statewide Commission for the Blind campaign aimed at increasing employment opportunities for blind persons.... Reports of unusual eye accidents published in the Sightsaving Review indicate that champagne corks have become one of the hazards of prosperity in Berlin. New Polyethylene substances now used in champagne stoppers have a greater ballistic potential than natural cork, which fragments as bottles are opened.

Representative Gregory B. Kachadoorian, a member of the Boston Chapter of the Associated Blind of Massachusetts, has been re-elected to his fourth term in the state legislature.... Carl T. Morris of Westfield, Massachusetts, was honored recently by the Air Force for his services as a civilian radio operator for an Air Reserve recovery group. Because Morris is totally blind, one copy of his citation was prepared in braille.... Jean Sorel of Haiti, one of the first blind persons in his country to receive an education, today is teaching French courses at the Hadley School for the Blind of Winnetka, Illinois.

John Knight, retired actor who originated the talking book project for the Library of Congress 30 years ago, died last June at the age of 64--following a career in which he recorded more than 5,000 books, including most of the Bible and the entire works of John Galsworthy.... Dr. Eleanor Gertrude Brown, well-known blind educator and author, died last July in Dayton, Ohio at age 76. The first blind graduate of Ohio State University, Dr. Brown taught in Dayton high schools for 40 years before retiring in 1952 ..

A recent Saturday Evening Post article (May 30, 1964) by Max Gunther, titled "Race Against Blindness," describes a helpful program conducted by ham radio operators who report on the supply of eyes in the nations eye banks--thereby keeping hospitals informed of available eyes for emergency operations.... "Learning Without Eyes" is the title of a Parent's Magazine article (September 1964) by Bob Billingsley, which reports on an integrated elementary school program carried out by the San Antonio, Texas independent school

district.

Three abacus experts from Japan visited the Hadley School in Illinois recently to compare notes on the adaptation of the abacus as a tool for the blind. One of the visitors, Koichiro Takeda, is credited with the original adaptation of the device subsequently developed by T.V.Cranmer and Fred Gissoni, both of Louisville. Hadley currently offers a course, "Using the Cranmer Abacus," which is taught by Gissoni....Ten students from abroad have enrolled for the 1964-1965 teacher training courses at the Perkins School for the Blind, Watertown, Massachusetts. The students hail from India, Singapore, Haiti,, Malaysia, Japan and Denmark.

Eugene E. Sibley, president of the Greenfield-Athol (Massachusetts) Association of the Blind, tells us of his organization's drive to have new traffic signal lights in the town of Athol equipped with an audible device to be activated only when the red-yellow pedestrian signal operates. Already in use in Watertown, Mass., the audible signal serves to alert blind and visually handicapped persons to cross upon hearing the sound.

Dr. Charles Buell, Director of Physical Education at the California State School for the Blind, has produced a sound motion picture on physical education for blind children. The film shows blind children of all ages participating in a wide variety of activities both in residential and public schools. The picture runs for 20 minutes. It can be rented from Dr. Buell for \$6.00....Russell Hubley, a student at the California School for the Blind, walked 50 miles on Saturday, November 14th. The 17-hour hike was made on a circular road on the campus. He is 15 years old and is partially sighted.
